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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who inhabits eternity, You have given us the gift of this day. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

May our lawmakers never forget that they borrow their heartbeats from You. Lord, continue to sustain our Senators and give them all they need to glorify Your Holy Name. May Your Spirit so move them that they will live exemplary lives. Lord, compel them to be just and honest in all their dealings. May they remember that our country is no better than our citizens and no stronger than its commitment to righteousness.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last night, the Senate took a vote on whether to proceed to a debate on infrastructure. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues blocked the Senate from taking this first entirely procedural step.

I understand that the effort to finish the text of the bipartisan bill has progressed since I announced this vote last week. The negotiators have made significant progress, but there are still some outstanding issues. Therefore, at the end of the vote yesterday, I changed my response to a no so that I may move to reconsider the vote at a future time.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle should be assured, as majority leader, I have every intention of passing both major infrastructure packages, the bipartisan infrastructure framework and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, before we leave for the August recess. I laid out that precise schedule at the end of June, and I intend to stick with it.

A new report by the chief economist at Moody's, Mark Zandi, hardly a liberal economist, someone who actually served as an economic adviser to Senator McCain, concluded that both major infrastructure proposals are essential to maximize our economic potential—not just one, both. And, together, they would give a massive boost to the economy, ease inflation pressures, create jobs, increase productivity, and reduce income inequality.

These are incredibly worthy goals, and the Senate is going to keep working on both tracks of infrastructure in order to achieve them.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on another matter, today in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, President Biden's nominee to lead the Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning, will receive a vote to advance her nomination to the Senate floor.

While it sometimes flies under the radar, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for overseeing nearly 250 million acres of public lands and 700 million acres of mineral rights, a vast track of the United States of America. No Agency is more important to the maintenance of public lands for public use. BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, that is, will play a huge role in the fight against climate change as well.

Over the past 4 years under Donald Trump, the Agency abandoned its mission, shrunk public lands, targeted our national monuments, and opened up those beautiful landscapes for corporate industrial development. In short, the next leader of the Bureau of Land Management has a tall order in restoring and protecting America's public lands.

Ms. Stone-Manning is exceedingly qualified to take on this important job.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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After serving on Senator TESTER's and Governor Bullock's staff, she went on to lead the environmental agency in Montana, where she was respected not only by conservationists but by ranchers and fossil fuel interests as well. She developed a reputation as an honest broker, someone who is firm in their principles but always willing to try and build consensus.

Yet the members of the Republican minority on the committee are trying to turn this consensus-driven, well-respected nominee into another partisan flashpoint, dredging up a letter she forwarded while in graduate school and claiming it was evidence that she is "an echo-terrorist." The claim is just as hysterical as it sounds.

Ms. Stone-Manning has the full support of the chair of the committee, the Senator from West Virginia; Mr. TESTER, the Senator from Montana; and from me.

We need someone like Ms. Stone-Manning to manage our public lands, a staunch advocate for conservation but also an honest broker, someone who will repair the damage of the last 4 years and be a faithful steward of America's national treasures, someone who understands that conservation policy has a critical role to play in the fight against climate change. Ms. Stone-Manning has all of those qualities, and I look forward to moving her nomination to the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with COVID-19 cases ticking up all across the country, with some bureaucrats and elected officials actually talking about reimposing various measures on the American people, the Biden administration continues to let illegal immigrants pour across our southern border, and reportedly, they are considering loosening our border security even more.

Remember when the Biden campaign's rhetoric and then the Biden administration's early actions led to a rush on the border. They tried to wave it off as a seasonal, springtime surge, but, of course, that wasn't true. The numbers just keep climbing.

Customs and Border Protection had more encounters on the southern bor-

der in June than they had in May, nearly 190,000 encounters last month alone—the highest number in 21 years. Law enforcement is coming across huge groups of hundreds of individuals. With almost 3 months still remaining in fiscal year 2021, CPB has already encountered more illegal immigrants than it did in the entirety—the entirety—of fiscal 2019, which was, of course, before COVID. We have exceeded that total with almost 3 months to go.

The Biden administration claims they are addressing the crisis by simply speeding up the rate at which they get migrants out of custody, out of border facilities, as if simply reducing the head count was the goal. Of course, that is no solution at all if the individuals are simply being released into the interior of our country.

Ordinarily, legal immigration is part of the heart of the United States of America, and it always has been, but it simply is not a universal human right for everybody in the Western Hemisphere who would like a better job or to break our rules and turn up at the border. No country, none—no country in the world—could govern itself that way.

In fact, this ongoing crisis is supremely unfair and uncompassionate to the men, women, and children whom it continues to entice into the scorching desert Sun. Border Patrol agents are having to double as humanitarian workers and EMTs. They rescue people who get lost, who are at risk of drowning, who have been simply abandoned by smugglers or traffickers.

Amidst all this, in the thick of this crisis, the Biden administration has spent weeks flirting with ending its title 42 authority, declaring the COVID emergency to be finished and over at our southern border and letting even more people stream across. COVID is already on the rise again, the border is already in crisis, and the President and his team want to end the emergency safeguards at our border? Reimpose COVID precautions on the American people but end the COVID emergency for illegal immigrants? How does that make any sense?

Meanwhile, our Democratic friends here on Capitol Hill say they want to push a massive amnesty plan into the reckless taxing-and-spending spree they want to pass later this year on a party-line vote. As if damaging inflation, soaring costs, lower real wages, and more debt were not punishment enough for the American people, Democrats also want to stuff a massive amnesty plan into their tax-and-spend spree. It is like they have systematically identified the worst idea for American families on every single issue and set about rolling them into one huge, reckless proposal.

RUSSIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now on a completely different matter,

last year, on a broad and a bipartisan basis, Congress passed sanctions that were designed to block Russia from completing its Nord Stream 2 pipeline project. The Biden administration recently waived those sanctions to allow the pipeline to move forward. Now it appears the administration has cut a deal with Germany that will allow the pipeline to become operational.

The initial press reporting about this deal does not inspire confidence that this administration is taking the Russian threat as seriously as it should, nor does it indicate that we are standing with our Ukrainian partners, who are struggling to defend themselves against Moscow's aggression. The administration appears to have ignored the broader implications of the Nord Stream 2 project and Russia's approach to Europe writ large.

Green energy initiatives or promises of diplomatic meetings will not address the real risks Moscow poses—not even close. Just a couple of years ago, Washington Democrats were absolutely melting down over their belief that the prior administration was being too soft on Russia and leaving Ukraine in the lurch. Where is the outrage today?

For several years there, my colleagues across the aisle sounded like big-time Russia hawks, so I hope they will now join Republicans in pressing the administration to explain this curious decision, to explain how President Biden intends to impose meaningful costs on Moscow for all its misdeeds at the same time they have America greasing the skids—greasing the skids—for this Putin pipeline.

IRAQ

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now on one final matter, next week, President Biden is set to meet with Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa al-Kadhimi. The meeting comes at an important moment for our shared efforts toward peace and security in Iraq and the entire region.

ISIS has been significantly weakened in Iraq and Syria after years of shared efforts, but the terrorist organization remains a grave threat. And ISIS is far from the only threat Iraqis and the Iraqi Government are facing. For years, Iran has systematically sought to undermine Iraq's sovereignty. Iran's well-armed proxy of militias report to Tehran, not Baghdad, but they operate inside Iraq.

These groups have conducted campaigns of intimidation and assassination against peaceful protesters and independent journalists in Iraq, the same brutal methods they employ in Syria, Lebanon, and in Iran itself. These Iranian-backed militias are also threatening our own American interests in Iraq. Iran wants to pick fights with a superpower while making the nation of Iraq bear the risk.

The fact is, the United States is in Iraq at the invitation of their government. We are there to support the

Iraqis and to help the Iraqis kill terrorists and defend their sovereignty. Our presence in Iraq also helps our operations in Syria against ISIS and al-Qaida.

Again, it is pretty obvious the terrorist threat is not over. Remember, the disastrous withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan may not simply be felt in that country; a Taliban victory and resurgence of al-Qaida could embolden jihadists all over the world, just as the rise of ISIS did in the wake of President Obama's withdrawal from Iraq.

As we watch Afghanistan descend into chaos and ISIS continue to lash out in Iraq and Syria, now is not the time for either the United States or Iraq to pretend that our shared mission is over. As I have warned again and again, terrorists don't observe our political timetables. They don't pack up just because we lose faith or lose focus.

So let's hope this administration is already learning from their mistakes in Afghanistan. When the Iraqi Prime Minister visits next week, the White House should provide strong assurances that the United States will stand strong with our friends and continue to support our partners who are standing up to terror and to extremism.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The majority whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, America is a nation of immigrants. But for the Native Americans, the first people over here, all of us have come to this country in various stages in our family life: personally, through our parents, grandparents, and beyond. We have built, within the confines of our Nation, an amazing story to tell the world of how such a diverse group of people can come together in one place and make a nation that has an impact on the world itself. That makes it very difficult to understand sometimes why we struggle so much with the issue of immigration. It is so central to who we are, what we have done, what we will become. Yet, when the conversation comes around about immigration policy, immigration law, we dissemble into warring factions and too often get little or nothing done.

The Presiding Officer may be surprised to know that it has been almost 36 years—36 years—since this Congress has passed any meaningful or substantive immigration law. The last real effort was under President Ronald Reagan. That is not an indication that our immigration system is perfect. It is far from perfect. There are many problems with it, as we look at it in a critical and important way.

I look at it from a perspective that maybe is different than some. I am the son of an immigrant. My mother was brought to this country at the age of 2 from Lithuania, became a naturalized citizen, and was very proud of that fact and raised her three boys to be proud of it as well.

Just a few steps from this Chamber is my office that I have decorated with the naturalization certificate of my mother right next to my desk, a reminder of who I am, where I came from, and also a warning to anyone coming into the office that this Senator feels very strongly about the issues of immigration.

Now I have the responsibility, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to actually deal with the laws surrounding immigration. It is not an easy assignment. If we have failed for 36 years to come up with a law, it is because there are strongly held views on both sides. Yesterday was a good illustration of that.

I called for a hearing with my friend and colleague Senator ALEX PADILLA, a California Senator, on farm labor, farm workers. The reason we wanted to call this was because it was not untimely that we had received a bill from the House of Representatives, which they passed on a bipartisan basis, to rewrite the laws on farm workers. They did a great job. I want to commend them for the effort of sending this legislation our way, this bipartisan legislation with 30 Republicans joining most of the House Democrats to enact it in the House of Representatives. And now it is over on our side of the Rotunda. It is a timely and important question.

We estimate that there are 2.4 million farmworkers in the United States who plant and pick our crops, milk the cows, process the food, and work in poultry and meat processing. And without them, these industries would struggle to survive.

That is not my analysis; it is the analysis of the American Farm Bureau and many other organizations that represent agriculture in America.

Of the 2.4 million farmworkers in the United States who pick these crops, half of them are undocumented. That means that, literally, they work in the fields picking the crops that reach our tables and they could be deported at any minute.

The bill that came over from the House of Representatives addresses that. Here is what it says. It says: If you can prove that you have worked picking crops for at least 10 years—10 years—and you can pass a criminal background check, we will give you the opportunity to apply for citizenship. But it is not instantaneous. Ten years is just the starting point. You then have to give us 4 years more of working in the fields, and then we will give you a green card. And in 5 years more, you could be eligible for citizenship. You are going to go through all kinds of reviews and background checks on your path to that moment.

So literally, we are saying to farm workers: If you will give us 19 years of your life picking our crops, we will give you a chance to be a citizen.

I have just heard that process characterized as amnesty—amnesty. For people who are breaking their backs, in the sweltering heat of America, with the toughest jobs imaginable, spending 19 years of their life putting food on our table and then passing a criminal background check, some call amnesty. I won't.

And if you had listened yesterday to the hearing, you would understand why even that process, as bipartisan as it was in the House, is in a tangle of politics here on the Senate side. Two speeches given by members of the Republican membership of the committee really told the story. They started talking not about farm workers picking crops or milking cows or processing our food, they started talking about terrorists, drug dealers, human traffickers, violent criminals coming across our border.

And they rejected the notion that we should give any of them the opportunity for citizenship at any point. They didn't even read the bill. About 19 years of hard work in the field before you could possibly qualify, they just said "reject it."

And when I listened to that, I wondered what they had for dinner last night because it is quite likely that whatever they had—whether it was a vegan diet or one that included meat or other food products—it was on their plate because one of these people that they have just characterized as a potential terrorist is breaking his back, day in and day out, to make sure that there is food for every American.

We heard stories. Linnea Kooistra was a dairy farmer in Woodstock, IL. She and her husband own a dairy farm. That may be one of the hardest assignments in the world. Those cows are going to get milked twice a day if you are going to make a living, and you better be prepared to give time to do it every single day, twice a day. She and her husband did it for years, won awards for their work.

Now, they have just kind of semiretired into row crops, which are challenging, too, but not like a dairy farm. And she said: You know, the thought of our continuing our farm was impossible unless we had immigrant labor.

The jobs on their dairy farm are tough, demanding jobs. People aren't lining up to apply for those jobs. They needed immigrants to make it work, and they couldn't get them.

There was a fellow that was there yesterday—an extraordinary guy, person; I had just met him for the first time—and I ran across him by watching television. I said, yesterday in a hearing, that my appetite for television starts with the Chicago Bears and goes through baseball, a lot of politics and news, but I never miss, if I can help it, the CBS "Sunday Morning" show.

Two weeks ago, this man named Shay Myers, whose home is in Idaho and who farms in Oregon growing asparagus, came on the show and did such a remarkable job, and I said to my wife: I would like to get him before our committee.

Well, he was there yesterday, and he told his story again, and he told about that asparagus field. There aren't many left in the United States because it is tough work and it is unpredictable, and some people just can't make it and how tough it was for him when finally the entire asparagus crop is ready, but there are no pickers for the crop. And it is backbreaking, intensive work.

He took his entire production of asparagus and basically said: Because I can't clear immigrant workers across the border, 90 of them, to pick my acreage on asparagus, I am just notifying the public in the area, it is free, come and take it; it is going to rot in the fields if you don't.

He just gave up and made nothing as a result of it. He grew up, he said, in a community in Oregon or Idaho—I am not sure which—which was half and half, half Anglo, half Hispanic. And he said: I am a very conservative person politically, but how can you say that these people haven't earned their opportunity for citizenship? They work so damn hard, and nobody else wants to do this work, and we count on them.

And, he said: I just happen to believe that growing these crops in the United States is a good thing. American consumers, more and more, are saying: We want some standards. We want to know about the chemicals you are going to use on these crops. We want to know about your farming practices.

He said: I pay close attention to those in America. Other countries that send us those crops from other countries don't pay any attention to it.

And he made a very, very valid point. When I think about those workers and how critical they were to him and his livelihood, it is hard for me to sit here—or stand here and ignore some of the criticism of this farm workers bill.

I want to salute MICHAEL BENNET, of Colorado, in particular. He is our colleague here. And he has, time and again, been able to mobilize the growers and the farm workers into an agreement on a bill. He did it again. He did it once before. I saw him do it, almost miraculously, with our Gang of 8 effort, a comprehensive immigration reform 7, 8 years ago. And now he has done it with this bill. It is amazing.

Arturo Rodriguez was there, one of the founding members of the United Farm Workers—an organization, you will remember, from the days when Cesar Chavez was drawing our attention for the first time in America to who picks the crops. Rodriguez was there, and he was speaking for the workers again—bringing workers from Michigan and Georgia, who were young Hispanic women, who were working in the field just a few weeks ago and now

are sitting in the Halls of Congress, begging for this legislation.

When I think about all that and then hear that work effort, that bill, being dismissed by the Republican leader this morning as mass amnesty—"mass amnesty," that was the phrase he used—it saddens me, and it angers me. It saddens me that many of the Senators who are saying these things aren't listening to these farm workers who are giving their lives so that we can have food for our families.

Tom Vilsack was there yesterday, the Secretary of Agriculture. I like him. I voted for him twice to be that Secretary. I am glad he has the job. He told the story of going to the State of New York, meeting a man who had been a migrant worker, picking crops for 20 years. This man had heard about Vilsack's arrival and about this legislation that was pending, and he said to the Secretary of Agriculture: I hope this happens so I can see my family.

And Vilsack said to him: Your family, where is your family?

He said: In Mexico. He said: I have been here for 20 years picking crops in the United States of America, going from field to field and State to State—20 years—and I haven't been able to see my family in that time.

And Vilsack said: Why?

He said: Because I am undocumented. And if I cross that border to see my family, I may never get back here again to pick the crops and earn the money and send it back to my family so they can get by.

We don't think about that very often, do we? We think, Well, these workers come in, and everything is just normal. Nothing is normal about being undocumented and picking someone's crops and not being able to see your family for 20 years.

I am not going to give up on this issue of immigration. America shouldn't give up on immigration. There are a million reasons why the theory that helping to find good immigration laws is mistaken in some way when you consider the fact that each year we naturalize a million people in America. Those are people who went through the process I described many times, waiting for years for that opportunity. And we say a million new Americans, through this legal process, is normal and good for us. I think it is.

There are some who say that if we said to farm workers, You have a path to citizenship, a 19-year path to citizenship, of backbreaking work in the fields, that we are sending a message to countries to turn them loose, come on into the United States, no questions asked. I couldn't disagree more.

We should have a process in America in immigration which we are proud of, that reflects our heritage and our belief in immigration as part of our future as well. I think there are just some basic things that every Member of the Senate should consider and, I believe, should be the basis of our immigration policy.

First, we need a secure border. In the age of COVID-19 and drug dealing, I want to know who is coming into this country and what they are bringing. That is not an unreasonable question to ask at our borders. A secure border is important for those reasons.

Second, we should never knowingly allow any person to come into this country who will do us harm, nor allow anyone into this country who threatens us.

And third, we need an orderly process, one that respects the law because the United States cannot absorb all of the people who want to come here right now. We have to have an orderly process, knowing who is coming into the border and what impact they are going to have on our Nation.

And then we ought to sit down and, instead of throwing around all the labels of mass amnesty and terrorism and human trafficking, acknowledge who these people are.

One of the things that the Senator from Kentucky referred to, I am sure, is a decision last week in Texas by a Federal court. That judge, Hanen, again, ruled in a way that troubles me—I think troubles many people—that the DACA Program, created by President Obama that has given up to 850,000 young people a chance to become at least legal in America temporarily, was unconstitutional and wrong. I think his decision is terrible, and I hope that the Biden administration appeals it and we win the appeal.

But the people who are affected by that decision, by the DACA decision, are young people, as I mentioned—infants and toddlers—brought to this country, who grew up here and know no other country. They pledge allegiance to that flag in a classroom every morning. They believe that is their flag, this is their country. And most of them, when they were teenagers, finally realized for the first time they have a problem: They are undocumented.

Should they be given a chance to become citizens of the United States? Overwhelmingly, the American people—Democrat, Republican, and Independents—say: Yes, that is only fair; give them a chance. They were brought here as kids. Give them a chance, those Dreamers, those DACA recipients. And to have them characterized as the beneficiaries of mass amnesty is unfair, and frankly, it doesn't reflect very well on us as a nation.

If we cannot find in our values, in our hearts, an opportunity to give these young people a chance to prove themselves, it really disappoints me that my colleagues would take that position.

These young people are remarkable. For 20 years of my public life, I have come to know them, and I am always amazed by the fact that I don't have to put a footnote at the end of that sentence and say "except for a few here and there." By and large, I have never run into one who has run into problems. I know it happens occasionally,

but it is so rare. These are remarkable young people, Dreamers, who just want a chance to be part of America's future.

I have come to the floor over 120 times with color photographs telling their individual stories. Each one is an amazing testimony to who we are as Americans and why these young people want to be part of us and what they can bring to this country. Remarkable stories—doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, members of our military, front-line workers—on COVID-19. They do remarkable things.

One of them, yesterday, appeared in a video before our committee, Vicente Reyes. Vicente Reyes is a DACA recipient. His mom and dad are undocumented. He is studying robotic engineering at a university in California.

Do we need him? I mean, can we do without Vicente Reyes? I assume we can do without him, but wouldn't we be better if he were part of us, part of the American family, and part of the American future?

That is what DACA is about. That is what Dreamers are about. If we help him, is that mass amnesty to give that young man a chance?

Incidentally, he told a story. He used to be out there picking those crops, and his mom and dad still are. Every morning, he said, before they go to the fields for a 10-hour day of back-breaking work picking crops, he said: Mom and dad hug me. They hug me and I hug them back because we know something. There is a secret in our family. My mom and dad are undocumented, he said. They may not come home tonight.

That is what that family faces to go out and do this back-breaking work, and that is the reality. And to dismiss this as mass amnesty—to even talk about a path to citizenship for Vicente, to talk about some way to help his mom and dad from being frightened every single day of being deported, that is what I dedicated my work for in this Senate and the Senate Judiciary Committee for many years.

I hope we can find some Republicans who will step up and join us in that effort. We need at least 10 of them. That is hard to find. Maybe we can find them. I am hoping we can do it soon.

We have a lot of work to do in this country for the Dreamers, for the farm workers, for the frontline workers who were there when we needed them so desperately during the COVID-19 pandemic and are still there today doing that work.

We are a big, wonderful nation that has a great story to tell, and it is a story of success written by immigrants with their blood and their toil and their dedication to this great Nation. We need to renew that effort.

CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this has been one of the most difficult years ever for the Capitol Police here in

Washington. These are men and women who have worked in this building and nearby in our office buildings and protect us to make sure we can come safely to work every single day and our staff and our visitors and tourists who come to the Capitol Building. These men and women are amazing.

We know that January 6, 2021, is a date that they will never forget. They were on the front lines of the violent January 6 insurrection that shocked this building, our Nation, and the world. Hundreds of Capitol Police literally fought for hours that day to protect this building and to protect me and other Members of the U.S. Senate.

The attack left one Capitol officer, Brian Sicknick, dead and more than 140 total officers from the Capitol Police and DC Police injured. Some members said it was the most savage fighting they have ever witnessed or been part of. Many of them thought they would die that day, yet they were back at their post the very next day and the day after that, and the day after that, and this morning too.

On April 2, the Capitol Police were still struggling to heal from the insurrection when their department suffered another devastating loss. A driver rammed his car into a barricade just outside the Capitol, a barricade I go through every morning. And one officer was injured and another officer, Billy Evans, was killed—killed. The memorial to him is still out at that barricade.

Only once before in the 193-year history of the Capitol Police had the department lost two members in the line of duty in the same year. That was on July 24, 1998. This coming Saturday is the anniversary of that event, the 23rd anniversary of the murders of Capitol Police Officers Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Gibson.

It happened on a Friday afternoon. I remember the day. Most Members of Congress had already gone home for the weekend, but the Capitol was still filled with staff and tourists. Officer Chestnut was at his post guarding an entrance on the east front of the building when a man with a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and a history of serious mental illness walked in and shot him point-blank in the back of the head. The shooter then ran to the nearest opened door, seeking to escape.

On the other side of that door, Detective Gibson just warned congressional staffers to hide under their desks, and he was face-to-face with that shooter. For the first time in his career, Detective Gibson fired his weapon in the line of duty, hitting the man four times. The man shot back, hitting Detective Gibson twice. Both officers died.

John Gibson had 18 years with the Capitol Police. J.J. Chestnut, a Vietnam veteran, had 20 years in the Air Force before joining the Capitol Police. He was ready for retirement. He thought he was going to be able to take time off with his family, but he lost his life that day.

They became the first civilians ever to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. Today, the Capitol Police headquarters is named after them.

Their murders remained the darkest days in the history of the Capitol Police until January 6, 2021, until a defeated and bitter President Donald Trump incited an angry mob and sent them to this Capitol to try to overturn a Presidential election.

The images from that day are sickening and we have seen them over and over. On February 3, Brian Sicknick became the third Capitol Police officer to lie in honor in the Rotunda.

I had a chance after that to speak to his parents. They were so proud of him and they thought he had a safe job as a policeman. Working at the U.S. Capitol, that has to be a safe place to work. Among the mourners paying their respect in the Rotunda that day were President Biden and the widow of Officer Chestnut.

Mr. President, the men and women who safeguard this Capitol deserve more than words from us, more than speeches. They protect us with their courage and they stand up and fight for us whenever they are called on.

Men and women in law enforcement are on the front lines when it comes to the Nation's gun violence epidemic. So far this year, at least 36 police officers in the city of Chicago have been shot or shot at. It is too easy for convicted felons and people with serious mental illness to get their hands on guns and use them.

More than 90 percent of the American people—all political faiths—believe we should have serious background checks to keep guns out of the hands of people who will misuse them: Convicted felons, mentally unstable people.

The House passed a bill, H.R. 8, in March that would fortify this effort to keep guns out of those hands. Senators MURPHY and MANCHIN have been leading the negotiations. They are not coming along very well. I wish they were. I hope our Republican colleagues will join us in supporting that.

In the meantime, I hope that we don't allow the events of January 6 to just become a matter of history. There are still important questions we need to answer.

And the Capitol Police have done something unusual, maybe the first time in memory. They have written us a letter and begged us to have a commission to really look into and investigate what happened on January 6. They had so much at stake that day. They risked their lives for us. And, sadly, Senator MCCONNELL is not agreeing to move forward on a bipartisan commission. Speaker PELOSI is trying to put one together now and it is not easy. I commend her for her effort.

It would be a shame for us to walk away from the events of January 6 because of worries about political consequences. We owe it to the American people. We owe it to the Capitol Police.

We owe it to the families of those who were injured and those who died to do our part to get to the bottom of what led up to January 6.

If we want this Capitol to be available for future generations to visit peacefully in a positive way, let's do our part to make sure we get to the bottom and answer that fundamental question.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from South Dakota.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, inflation is on the rise. Inflation in June was at its highest level in 13 years. Consumers are facing the effects: higher prices.

Americans are facing increases in rent, in their restaurant bills, in their grocery bills, gas prices, and the list goes on.

Want to buy a used car?

Expect to pay a lot more money than you would a year ago.

Inflation happens when the amount of money out there exceeds the supply of products. When that happens, when demand outstrips supply, prices increase. And that is what we are seeing now. It is being aggravated by Democrats' decision this spring to flood the country with unnecessary money.

During times of crisis, there is a place for increased government spending. The money the government invested in COVID vaccines, for example; the forgivable loans provided to small businesses to help them weather the pandemic; and the increased assistance to hospitals and healthcare providers as the crisis escalated.

But crisis spending is for just that, a crisis, or at least it should be. Unfortunately, Democrats have never met a temporary government dollar that they didn't want to keep spending. "Temporary" government programs aren't really a thing for my friends across the aisle.

And so as the crisis was waning and our economy was rebounding, Democrats doubled down on the crisis spending and passed a massive COVID relief bill filled with unnecessary handouts; hundreds of billions of dollars for State governments, the majority of whom were doing just fine without it. In fact, many running surpluses. Tens of billions more for schools who had barely made a dent in the billions of dollars they had already been given.

Republicans and at least one liberal economist warned that Democrats' massive spending plan could overstimulate the economy, but Democrats didn't listen. So it is no surprise that the flood of unnecessary government dollars is currently helping to boost inflation.

Here is the kicker, Mr. President. After flooding the economy with unnecessary money, Democrats are now preparing to double down on that strategy. That is right. Despite passing a

largely unnecessary \$1.9 trillion bill just 4 months ago, Democrats now want to spend an additional \$3.5 trillion—\$3.5 trillion.

The truth is that number is likely to be even higher, a lot higher. One estimate suggests that the \$3.5 trillion is likely to be more like \$5 trillion or \$5.5 trillion. That is from an independent analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where President Biden's own Treasury Secretary used to serve on the board. That is an inconceivably large amount of money.

To put that number in perspective, the entire Federal budget for 2019 was less than \$4.5 trillion—the entire Federal budget. So Democrats are just casually tossing out a new spending bill that might very well exceed the entire Federal budget in 2019.

I can assure Americans that that much money would fuel increased inflation. Consumers would continue to be squeezed by rising prices and watch the value of their salaries decrease.

But the damage would not be just limited to the effects of inflation. Americans would also suffer as a result of the massive tax hikes Democrats are envisioning. Democrats plan to pay for all or some of their spending by raising taxes left and right on small businesses, large businesses, investment, well-off Americans. All of them and more will see tax increases under Democrats' plans.

The President, of course, likes to repeat his mantra that he won't raise taxes on those making under \$400,000. In fact, that isn't really true, as the President's plans for a second death tax will undoubtedly hit middle-class Americans.

While it is true that the President won't be raising income taxes on Americans making less than \$400,000 a year, middle-class Americans will unquestionably bear a substantial part of the burden of his tax hikes because raising taxes, any taxes, has consequences for everyone.

Democrats like to pretend that raising taxes is a consequence-free enterprise, but that isn't even close to being the truth. It doesn't take an economics degree to recognize that. It is common sense. Raise taxes enough on anyone or any business and that individual's behavior or that business's behavior is going to change. A business facing a substantial tax hike may raise prices; it may freeze salaries; or it may not hire as many new workers, and all of those decisions will be felt by ordinary Americans.

Think about it. If a business raises prices to deal with the impact of a tax hike, who is going to feel it the most? Ordinary Americans on a budget.

What is more, most Americans, if they are not self-employed or working for government, are employed by businesses, and if the business they work for isn't doing well, their prospects are going to be significantly affected. If businesses hold down wages to deal with the impact of tax hikes, for exam-

ple, ordinary Americans' long-term earning potential will be diminished. These effects may not sound as concrete as being handed a tax bill, but they have just as real of an impact on Americans' incomes and Americans' lives.

Studies suggest that 50 to 70 percent or more of the burden of corporate tax hikes is borne by workers in the form of things like lower wages. Combine Democrats' proposed business tax hikes with their massive proposed increase in the capital gains tax, which would chill the investment that helps drive job creation, and you have a recipe for permanently diminished economic growth and a permanent reduction in opportunity for American workers.

If Democrats received any mandate in the last election, it was a mandate for moderation, for compromise, for bipartisan cooperation. Yet Democrats are behaving as if they had received a mandate for a partisan revolution. They are busy driving the country down the road to socialism with a massive and permanent expansion in the size of government, and their reckless tax-and-spending spree will hurt the very Americans they claim to want to help.

I hope some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will put the brakes on their party before the Democrats' massive spending spree ends in economic disaster for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

CYBER INCIDENT NOTIFICATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Cyber Incident Notification Act of 2021.

I am very grateful to be joined by my colleague and friend, the senior Senator from Maine, because on this topic I am about to describe, she was way ahead of the curve, as she is on so many issues. She was so far ahead of the curve as to what we are talking about now, that if the Congress of the United States had adopted her proposals back in 2012—back in 2012—we might not be dealing with, literally, the catastrophic effects of cyber security incidents. We didn't, and that is why we are putting forward the Cyber Incident Notification Act of 2021.

It seems like, every day, Americans wake up to the news of another ransomware attack or cyber intrusion. The SolarWinds breach, which we learned about last December, resulted in the compromise of hundreds of Federal Agencies and private companies. The truth was, as we discovered, the bad guys actually got into 18,000 companies in the SolarWinds hack. Similarly, the ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline this past May resulted in gasoline and fuel shortages and price spikes across the entire eastern seaboard, demonstrating how broad

the ripple effects of these attacks can be.

The truth is these attacks can affect hundreds or even thousands of entities connected to the initial target. Earlier this week, the United States and allied governments publicly accused China's government of conducting an extensive hacking campaign on Microsoft's email systems, which again compromised tens of thousands of computers worldwide, including those used by some of the world's largest companies, contractors, and governments.

These events are finally the wake-up call that Senator COLLINS predicted a decade ago, a wake-up call for many of us in Washington, and even for those individuals who sit on these companies' boards that have to understand now the threats and capabilities possessed by our adversaries. These events also reveal major gaps in our Nation's effort to combat and contain cyber threats with insufficient communication between the private and public sectors.

These attacks and hacks demonstrate that our IT and critical infrastructure—much of it operated, appropriately, by the private sector—are under constant daily attack. They also demonstrate that we need to get better insight into cyber incidents as they happen—mid-incident—so that the U.S. Government can bring to bear its most effective capabilities and respond rapidly to protect our critical infrastructure systems.

We saw that recently when the FBI and the Department of Justice were able to claw back some of the ransomware from the Colonial Pipeline attack. With the Colonial Pipeline, what happened was we had a responsible private sector company that notified the government, FireEye, but we cannot rely upon the good will of private entities to individually, case by case, decide whether they tell the government. We need quicker and more comprehensive notification. In a sense, when an entity is being attacked, if that sector is being attacked, we can then notify other companies in that sector in realtime.

The truth is we should have done this much earlier. In fact, SolarWinds showed us that, when it comes to wide-scale breaches of U.S. networks, nobody is responsible for collecting information on the scope and scale of these attacks. This is alarming because this information allows us to develop a full picture of what was targeted and taken, what was at risk, and the type of techniques and tactics used by our adversaries.

These are all issues of critical national security, but as Senator COLLINS knows, under current law, there is no Federal mandate that companies disclose when they have been breached, even if they operate critical infrastructure. Rather, there is the hodgepodge of guidelines, depending on the industry, which, as we have seen, at least some companies then use as an excuse not to report or literally to create a

whole set of legal gymnastics to avoid any level of disclosure. Unfortunately, this leaves our Nation vulnerable to criminal and state-sponsored hacking activity.

The bottom line is we cannot just rely on voluntary reporting to protect our critical infrastructure. We need a routine reporting requirement so that vital sectors of our economy that are affected by a cyber breach can have the full resources of the Federal Government and so that the private sector can be mobilized to respond to and fight off these attacks.

That is why I have been very proud to work not only with Senator COLLINS but also the vice chair of the Intelligence Committee, Senator RUBIO, and, in total, 15 of our colleagues, bipartisan, mostly all from the Intel Committee but also the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee and the chairman—on SASC—of the Cyber Committee, to introduce legislation this week that would require Federal Agencies, government contractors, and the owners and operators of critical infrastructure to report cyber intrusions within 24 hours of their discovery.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that the Federal Government is aware of and can take immediate action to mitigate cyber intrusions that have the impact to affect our national security. Part of that notification will be not just to let the government know but to let others in the private sector know as well. Consequently, the bipartisan Cybersecurity Incident Notification Act of 2021 would require covered entities to notify the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, when a breach is detected so that the U.S. Government can mobilize to protect critical industries across our country. These covered entities include healthcare, transportation, financial services, agriculture, energy, and information technology sectors.

Now, the executive branch should have the flexibility to respond to shifting threats. The bill leaves some discretion for this and future administrations to determine whether other entities or classes of entities should be included at a later date.

To incentivize this information sharing to take place, the bill would grant limited immunity and confidentiality to companies that come forward to report a breach. It would also include data protection procedures to anonymize personally identifiable information and to, again, safeguard privacy.

These are not liability protections that would shield network operators, though, from negligence or misconduct. Rather, they would help prevent companies that come forward under this legislation from facing reputational risk just for reporting this vital information to the government.

Ultimately, I see this kind of notification as providing value, as I said, to

the private sector as well so that we may have this common defense. There is no way we can solve this problem with government alone or with the private sector alone. There should not only be a rapid public notification but, in appropriate cases, swift government action.

Ultimately, we need to recognize that the threat landscape has fundamentally changed from even a few years ago. A few years ago, Senator COLLINS had this approach, and I think the private sector was concerned about undue mandates. The world has changed, and even many of the business organizations now agree that, as long as we grant that limited immunity and confidentiality, we need to put this reporting mechanism in place so that the public sector and the private sector can respond.

The truth is there are literally terabytes of sensitive data out there, including intellectual property, personal information, contract details, and others that could be exploited. For that matter, what if the SolarWinds attack had not been one of exploiting and taking out information but had actually been a denial-of-service attack, which we saw with Russia taking place against Ukraine a number of years back? That could have taken place with SolarWinds and completely shut down our economy, and we have all seen recently a dramatic upsurge in ransomware.

The truth is every company and virtually every part of government is under daily attack from these cyber criminals and, in some cases, from foreign intelligence services. The Federal Government must have the expertise and the willingness to share this information in realtime to make sure that we can counter this. I think this is a sensible first step in finally putting in place the kind of broad-based cyber strategy our country needs. So I urge my colleagues to join the 15 of us and pass the Cyber Incident Notification Act of 2021.

Again, I note my friend, the Senator from Maine, is here. We have been spending a lot of time together, but I really appreciate her lead sponsorship of this legislation.

I will say it on the floor of the Senate, as I have said in so many private settings over the last number of weeks on some other things, if we had just listened earlier to the Senator from Maine, we would have been in a lot better shape today in this country.

With that, I yield to my colleague, the Senator from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, first, let me thank my good friend and the leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Chairman WARNER, for paving the way for this legislation. He cares deeply about our country's response to these terrible cyber attacks and intrusions, and I am so grateful for his leadership and for his working with me to

produce the Cyber Incident Notification Act of 2021.

As the chairman has mentioned, this is a bipartisan bill that is broadly supported. It would strengthen our response to cyber attacks and, thus, help to prevent future cyber intrusions. It would require government Agencies, Federal contractors, and critical infrastructure entities, which are overwhelmingly owned and operated by the private sector and other important sectors, to notify the U.S. Government if they become the victims of a significant cyber attack or intrusion.

This effort is a direct outgrowth of our work on the Senate Intelligence Committee and reflects our longstanding concern regarding the lack of timely notification of cyber attacks that can lead to extremely serious consequences for our economy, for our national security, and for our individual privacy.

In September of 2019, for example, Russian hackers gained access to the SolarWinds' software. This resulted in a supply chain compromise that was downloaded by up to 18,000 of its customers. These hackers then conducted follow-on operations that compromised 9 Federal Agencies and 100 private-sector networks.

We did not become aware of this hack until more than a year later and only then because a cybersecurity firm called FireEye voluntarily notified the Federal Government and the public.

Just to reiterate that important point, FireEye was under no legal obligation whatsoever to tell us that the software had been compromised, even though it affected nine Federal Agencies. We are grateful that FireEye told us about this hack, but the fact that companies are not mandated to do so leaves our economy and national security vulnerable to future attacks and lessens our ability to respond effectively when such intrusions do occur.

Where would we be right now if FireEye had not voluntarily disclosed the intrusion? Would the Russians' operation still be ongoing? How much sooner would we have become aware of these Russian cyber operations if key sectors were required to report cyber incidents to the U.S. Government?

As the Senator from Virginia very kindly and generously noted, I have long been concerned about this problem and focused on it.

In 2012, when I was the ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, I joined with my chairman and dear friend former Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut in introducing a bill called the Cybersecurity Act of 2012. That bill would have, among other things, addressed this gap in cyber incident reporting. Unfortunately, our bill did not become law. How much more prepared we would be today if it had been enacted.

My 2012 bill would have led to improved information sharing between the private sector and the Federal Government that likely would have re-

duced the impact of cyber incidents on both the government and the private sector. Having a clear view of the dangers the Nation faces from cyber attacks is necessary to enable both the public and the private sector to mitigate and reduce the threat. We have just recently seen the impact of an attack on a major pipeline. Just think what the consequences would be of an attack that crippled our electric grid.

What we are proposing in the Cyber Incident Notification Act is common sense and long overdue. Our bill recognizes the additional burden that this reporting requirement places on parts of the private sector, and so it, therefore, provides additional liability protection for companies reporting cyber incidents and requires the government to harmonize these new mandates with any existing reporting requirements to help avoid duplication.

The bill also requires the government to produce analytic updates for the government and industry practitioners regularly so that they are aware of cyber incidents taking place and targeting their sectors. This should be a two-way street of the exchange of information.

Let us not delay any longer in passing a robust cyber incident notification requirement. Failure to pass this bill will only give our adversaries more opportunity to gather intelligence on our government, to steal intellectual property from our companies, to compromise our personal privacy, and, most of all, to harm our critical infrastructure.

Again, my thanks to the Senator from Virginia, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, for his hard work on this bill. Let's get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

This morning, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted on her nomination. Every Republican on the committee voted no. Before our business meeting was over, Senator SCHUMER came to this floor, to that desk, and he praised this nominee to the skies. President Biden and the Democrats have wrapped their arms around this nomination, and they won't let go.

So the question is, Who is this nominee whom the Democrats are embracing and every Republican voted against? Well, Tracy Stone-Manning is a graduate student who collaborated with ecoterrorists. Now, these are people who hammered hundreds of metal spikes—500 pounds of metal spikes—into trees in our national forest in Idaho. This is the kind of metal spike that they used—10 inches long, very thick; 500 pounds of these into the national forest.

Tree spiking involves nailing, hammering these rods into a tree. What happened? Why did they do that? Well, they want to stop progress in terms of logging. They want to stop progress in terms of firefighting. Because if a logger or a firefighter were to hit this rod with a chain saw, the chain saw would shatter. Devastating injuries have occurred as a result. If the saws used in timber mills or sawmills were to hit one of these as they are planing through the tree to produce boards, the entire blade shatters. It has been described to me by someone who has worked in one of these mills—it is like a hand grenade going off, damaging people all around in the vicinity. Well, the results can be fatal, and there are examples around the country where this has actually happened. Now, even the Washington Post has labeled tree spiking as ecoterrorism.

Tracy Stone-Manning, as a member of a radical group, edited, typed, and then anonymously sent a profanity-laced letter threatening the U.S. Forest Service. Here are just a few quotes from the letter.

She typed:

You bastards go in there anyway and a lot of people could get hurt.

She typed:

I would be more than willing to pay you a dollar for the sale, but you would have to find me first and that could be your WORST nightmare.

This is the letter she typed to the U.S. Forest Service. She then mailed this threatening letter to the target of the tree spiking, and the target was the U.S. Forest Service.

She and her circle were investigated. They were investigated for their involvement with this ring of ecoterrorists and this ecoterrorist attack that actually occurred to the U.S. forest. She was subpoenaed. She was ordered to give hair sampling, palm sampling, handwriting sampling, and fingerprint samples to the investigators.

She knew full well who the tree spikers were, and she could have easily gone to the authorities to identify them. She didn't. She covered it up for 4 years. She refused to cooperate with investigators.

Recently, within the last couple of months, Tracy Stone-Manning came before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. She came for her confirmation hearing. Since that hearing and the statements that she made to the committee and affidavit she swore under oath and signed,

since that time, in the last couple of months and more recently than that—actually last week in one case—several people involved in her original case have come forward to the press and to the committee to set the record straight from the record and the story that she told the committee at the time.

So the lead investigator on this case wrote a letter to Chairman MANCHIN and to me. I am the ranking member on the committee. That investigator, who I will tell you has worked as a special criminal investigator for the U.S. Government for 28 years, has been a longtime member of the U.S. military, served in Vietnam, and retired as a criminal investigator because of death threats made to him and to his family by the group who worked on this ecoterrorism—he retired from that. But he wrote to the committee. He came forward, and he said that she was the nastiest of suspects. He said that not only did she have knowledge of the plan to spike the trees, he said she was one of the planners.

He wrote to us and said:

It became clear that Ms. Stone-Manning was an active member of the original group that planned the spiking of the Post Office Timber Sale.

So there he is, a criminal investigator. Then just last week, one of the convicted tree spikers, one of the people who actually went to jail because of that—he came forward in an interview in the press. In an interview with E&E News, the convicted tree spiker confirmed that Tracy Stone-Manning knew of the plan to spike the trees, in his words, “well in advance.”

Now, according to the investigator's letter, Ms. Stone-Manning's lack of co-operation actually set back their initial investigation many years. Eventually, when she was identified and received an investigation target letter, she had to make a decision. The lead investigator said she only agreed to testify after she was caught and after her lawyer negotiated an immunity deal.

Tracy Stone-Manning—she helped plan the tree spiking. She covered up for the terrorists and their activity for years. She refused to cooperate with authorities, and she only testified when she was caught and given immunity.

After all this, she created a story and lied to our committee about the incident. On a sworn affidavit to her committee questionnaire, she said it was an alleged tree spiking and that she was not the subject of an investigation.

I specifically asked her: Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in any forest during your lifetime? Her response under oath was no.

Both the cop, the criminal investigator, and the criminal, the man who went to jail as the group went to jail for this—they both came forward after

her hearing to say that Tracy Stone-Manning was lying to the Senate.

Over the past 30 years, she has made contradictory statements about the ecoterrorist incident and the network. In 2013, she told a Montana State Senate committee that she was intimidated into sending the letter by a stranger. Yet, in courtroom testimony, she admitted that the tree spikers were her friends. She was one of the ring leaders of the group.

There are many qualified Democrats who could run the Bureau of Land Management. Within the Federal Government, this is the group who oversees one-eighth of all the land in the United States. It is astonishing to me that Democrats are digging in to defend a proven liar and an ecoterrorist collaborator.

So Senator SCHUMER came to the floor today and made it very clear that he is going to support this deeply flawed nominee. Will other Democrats do it as well? Will other Democrats who have millions of acres of BLM land in their States—will they join him?

Things have certainly changed, and it is interesting what has happened to the Bureau of Land Management and the nominees, because President Obama's BLM Director, Bob Abbey, came forward. He said that her actions should disqualify her from leading this important Agency. We are talking about President Obama's Director of the Bureau of Land Management says her history and her past and her activities should disqualify her.

One Biden administration official admitted to NBC News—this was in the last week—her nomination was described as “a massive vetting failure”—“a massive vetting failure.”

Now, there is going to be more to say about this nominee when an attempt is made to discharge her out of the committee, if they get to that point, a cloture vote on the floor, and again, a vote on confirmation. Lots to be said. More information will come out.

It is just hard for me, as the ranking member of that committee, to imagine a nominee more disqualified than Tracy Stone-Manning. She has collaborated with ecoterrorists, she has lied to the Senate, and she continues to harbor truly extremist views that most Americans find reprehensible.

I strongly oppose her nomination. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same. Tracy Stone-Manning is unfit to serve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING MACNOLIA COX

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, earlier this month, Zaila Avant-garde became the first Black American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It is kind of discouraging in the year 2021 that barrier still needed breaking.

Her achievement is an inspiration for so many students around the country.

She drew strength and courage from another trailblazer who had gotten significant less attention, whose story has not been told and honored the way that Zaila was.

In 1936, 13-year-old MacNolia Cox from Akron, OH, became one of the first two Black students to compete in the National Spelling Bee. She qualified after winning the regional competition that went 60–6–0—rounds, sponsored by the Akron Beacon Journal. Black communities across the country cheered her victory. They looked forward to her joining the national competition. She was celebrated at churches and clubs, talked about by celebrities, and even politicians. At the RKO Palace in Cleveland, band leader Fats Waller, tap dancer Bill Robinson, whom we know, whom history knows as Mr. Bojangles, brought her on stage.

Three thousand Ohioans came to Akron's Union Station to send MacNolia off on her journey to Washington. She had little idea the treatment she would endure at the tip of the Jim Crow South. She was forced to ride—she is, essentially, Ohio's representative at the National Spelling Bee, a 13-year-old Black—I was going to say Black young woman—Black girl from Ohio. She was forced to ride in segregated train cars. She was forced to stay at a private home instead of at the Willard hotel.

Nine years later, my parents—my dad came from overseas, my mom from Mansfield, GA—met at the Willard hotel at the end of his service in World War II.

She could not stay at the Willard hotel because she was African American, while all the other White competitors did. At a dinner for the finalists, she and her mother were forced to enter through the kitchen door of the hotel and sit at a separate table segregated from the other finalists. How shameful that was.

Despite it all, MacNolia Cox made it far in the competition. There were only five students left when the judges gave her a proper noun to spell. She hadn't studied it. Proper nouns were supposed to be off limits. The judges had had enough of a Black girl getting that far. They wouldn't listen to the Beacon Journal reporter, who covered her to report on the competition. She pointed out to the judges that the judges—the judges—weren't following their own rules. She was eliminated. Of course, she was. Her achievements, her story soon faded from memory until now.

Zaila Avant-garde talked to the media about scrolling through pictures of national spelling bee contestants with her father, seeing face after face that didn't look like hers.

It reminds me, yesterday, I had breakfast with the Secretary of the Treasury at the Treasury Department. To get to her office—her office, “her,” I reiterate—you walk down a long, long, long hallway. Every picture in the hallway are people who look like me. They were Secretaries of the

Treasury. Every single Secretary of the Treasury, until Janet Yellen, looked like—well, older, certainly, than the Presiding Officer—but looked like we do.

She saw MacNolia Cox's face, and she learned her story as she was looking through these. She told reporters when she was competing, she thought of MacNolia. She thought about what she had endured 85 years earlier.

Now, more Americans are learning both of their stories. More kids are seeing themselves in the faces of champions. That is why Black history matters. It matters in the classroom. It matters in movies. It matters on the Senate floor. It matters in books. It matters in TV shows. It matters in the national news. It is how we shine a light on the injustices students like MacNolia and Zaila had to overcome and work to fight them.

It is how we show kids that these are dreams—these aren't dreams only for certain kids who look a certain way. These dreams, these aspirations, these achievements in 21st century America should be for everyone.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Akron's MacNolia Cox, and even more importantly, telling her story for future generations.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, over the past week, we have put money directly—directly—in the pockets of the families of 60 million American children.

In Ohio, 2.1 million children, their families got hundreds of dollars each in tax cuts, money to help them keep up with the costs of raising a family, money they will spend in the local economy—I say to the Presiding Officer, you know this, the largest tax cut for working families in American history ever.

Stories have poured into our office from across Ohio—the Presiding Officer is hearing those in Hawaii—all from parents who work hard to make ends meet. They now have a little bit extra of their own money back to spend on groceries and childcare and medical bills and school supplies.

We care about families. There is a lot of talk in this body about we care about families. Well, if you care about families, this is all about empowering families. Families decide how to spend these dollars; MITCH MCCONNELL doesn't decide. Joe Biden doesn't decide. BRIAN SCHATZ doesn't decide. I don't decide how we spend these dollars. Families decide. They are dollars they have earned working hard to provide for their family—it is hard work raising children—and how they have raised their kids.

I think all of us are hearing these stories. Some of them on our websites, some of us in townhalls, we are hearing these stories. Let me just briefly tell just a handful of them.

Rob, from Copley, OH, said he is going to spend it on “bills and neces-

sities, especially necessities for [my] kids.”

Traci said she is going to use it to “pay for my children's sports fees.”

One mother said, “My 8-year-old was able to attend a Coding Camp this week” for the first time. She was just thrilled.

We know how expensive healthcare is. We know how medical bills and copays and premiums eat away at families' budgets. So many parents have talked about how this will help them afford healthcare expenses.

Leanne, from Akron, is going to be able to afford “my daughter's medical bills.”

Hayley said she will use the tax cut “to pay for speech therapy for [her] child.”

Susan said it will allow her to “pay for my child's dyslexia tutoring.”

Jen said, “Ours will be going straight”—you have to love this one—“Ours will be going straight to the orthodontist each month.”

Brittney wrote that this tax cut “came at a great time.” She said:

My son got sick with pneumonia this . . . week. That led to an urgent care visit, breathing treatment, chest X-rays, and a lot of medicine—so our payment will go to [emergency] medical bills to make sure our son [can thrive] and has the medicine he needs.

The Presiding Officer may remember that there were two votes on the child tax credit. First, an amendment to take it out—every Republican voted to take it out—and then an amendment to pass the bill on March 6 at about this time of day and every Republican voted against it. I know it is all about tax cuts for rich people for them, but we can get to that later.

We know another benefit of this is, this is money spent in communities. I am not getting any notes from parents saying: “You know, thank you, Senator BROWN, for this child tax credit you have been working on for a decade. I am going to put more money in my Swiss bank account.” Nobody is saying that. We have gotten so many stories already how this money supports the economy and supports jobs.

Katie from Brecksville: Month 1, she is using it for “a much-needed family vacation.” Month 2, she is using it for “school supplies.” That supports hotel jobs and restaurants jobs and retail jobs.

Lyndsay said she had used it for “back to school clothes,” again, supporting local retailers.

Brittany from Butler said: “We will be able to put new windows in the kids' bedrooms that will keep them cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.” That sounds like work for a local handyman or a woman or a window business.

Lisa said she is spending it on “diapers and school supplies . . . we put a little into starting a 529 college fund.”

Think about that. These families are struggling. I don't know for sure, but sounds like Lisa may have a couple of

children, so she gets this—they are little, so she is going to get \$300 per child. So she gets \$600 July 15. She will get \$600 August 15. She will get \$600 September 15. She will get \$600 October 15 and November 15. And she has decided she can now afford a few things she couldn't afford. But she is going to maybe put \$100 of that every month into a 529 college fund so her child will be—the whole idea of infrastructure is building a base, a foundation, to launch children into better lifestyles, to launch children into a more productive life, to give kids opportunity. That is what this does. That is what the child tax credit does. And it is almost every-body.

Ninety-two percent of Ohio kids' families are getting a tax cut every single month. So many parents mention the costs of childcare. So often, over and over, we hear how this will allow parents to afford the childcare that allows them to go to work.

Courtney, a mother, wrote that her tax cut is already more than half—“slightly more than half the cost of part-time daycare tuition per month here in Athens,” down in southeast Ohio. She said, it is appreciated so much, the “help getting my child back into childcare and keeping me and my husband in the workforce.”

So it comes back to one question—I think the Presiding Officer knows this—whose side are you on? Whose side are you on in these fights? Are you on the side of the parents who work hard every day for their families?

In a dignity-of-work roundtable in our Senate Banking Committee, a woman from West Virginia said the words “working” and “poor” shouldn't be in the same sentence. The words “working” and “poor” shouldn't be in the same sentence. These are families who are working really hard. Give them a little bit of a break so they can rise above the poverty line so they can afford some things to launch their children into more productive lives.

So are you on the side of these parents who work every day? Or are my colleagues going to raise these families' taxes at the end of the year? Because this expires next year, if we don't continue it. I haven't seen any help yet on their side wanting to come in. I am still hopeful.

We remember what happened on 2017. The Presiding Officer remembers this. In 2017, you could walk out this door pretty much any time of day, and you could look down the hall in 2017, and you could see lobbyists lined up outside of MITCH MCCONNELL's office, all well dressed, all really, really well paid, all hat in hand—some literally, some figuratively—saying: Senator MCCONNELL, we need this additional tax break.

Do you know what? We spend \$1.5 trillion on that tax cut. They don't want to spend \$100 billion a year on these children. One hundred billion is—I should do the math really quick—about 8 percent of \$1.5 trillion, something like that—6 percent. So they will

do \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts. Seventy percent of it went to the richest people in the country. Yet they don't want to do tax cuts for children that elicit these stories.

I don't recall, getting on my website, stories saying: You know, thank you, Senator BROWN—even though I voted against it—thank you for that big tax cut back in 2017. I could buy another yacht, thank you. Or I get to go to Europe again, thank you.

We don't hear those stories. Here are the stories you hear about these children who need that tax cut.

So you will remember when they all lined up outside of our colleague Senator McConnell's office. You will remember that tax cut. They promised it would trickle down to everyone else and then it would create all this prosperity. Well, we know it didn't happen. They kept the money for themselves—no shock there. Corporations turned around and spent that money on—shocking—stock buybacks for their executives. They ended up, always, in the pockets of their executives.

Now, this year, without a single vote from Republicans in Congress, who passed tax cuts for everyone else, a pretty simple contrast: tax cuts for billionaires and corporations—thank you very much—as they line up down the hall, or do you want tax cuts for working families?

Every single month, we show parents and workers, every single month these checks are coming: \$300 per child if your child is from newborn to 5, \$250 a month if your child is from 6 to 17. Every single month, we show we are on your side. We are putting more of your own money back into your pockets.

I know the Presiding Officer joins in this. We will not stop fighting to make sure parents' hard work pays off. We will not stop. We will deliver on this.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, many bills get introduced in the Senate and don't seem to go anywhere. The reason is that they are meant to be simply messaging documents, making a statement, telling people what you believe, not necessarily with the motive of passing a piece of legislation.

Now, I usually do not care to comment on these bills. It is simply not worth the time. But when I see the combination of false information spread in messaging bills that could negatively impact my State, I must set the record straight, and that is why I am here.

Several colleagues just introduced a bill to repeal the renewable fuel standard. I have been a proud advocate for renewable energy. Iowa is the leader in both wind and renewable fuels. When it comes to the renewable fuel standard, it is hard to argue that there has ever been a more successful clean-fuel policy implemented across the world. Between 2008 and 2020, the use of biofuels under the renewable fuel standard resulted in a savings of 980 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. That is the equivalent of removing over 200 million cars from the road for 1 year. The renewable fuel standard makes gasoline more affordable. It generates good-paying jobs. It reduces oil imports and reduces our country's greenhouse gas emissions.

The messaging coming from the bill rehashes the same talking points about ethanol that Big Oil has trotted out for the past decades. So, once again, Big Oil raises its ugly head.

Of course, Big Oil's talking points have been completely debunked by the latest science and even our nonpartisan research from the Congressional Budget Office. And Congress depends a great deal upon the research done by the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan group of professional people that study things a long time before they release their information.

Now, my pro-oil colleagues say that the renewable fuel standard causes food and feed prices to rise. However, in 2014, the CBO looked at this issue and the impact on food prices if the renewable fuel standard was fully repealed. The Congressional Budget Office concluded that American food prices would be just one-quarter of 1 percent higher if the renewable fuel standard was kept in place versus a total repeal. Out of a \$100 grocery bill, the impact is no more than a quarter. But when you consider that there is a savings of \$5 every time you fill up your gas tank due to the renewable fuel standard, consumers save money overall with the renewable fuel standard in place.

My colleagues who introduced this messaging legislation also claimed, falsely, that corn ethanol achieves little to no reduction in greenhouse gases. Now, this must be the most ridiculous assertion made against ethanol. I would like to invite my colleagues to visit Iowa to see how far ethanol has come in reducing emissions.

The most recent research from Harvard shows that corn ethanol greenhouse gas emissions are 46 percent lower than gasoline. Research by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found the reduction in CO₂ could reach 71 percent by next year if farmers follow best practices.

At a time when the Nation is working to reduce fossil fuel consumption and protect our environment, why would my colleagues introduce a bill that would increase our dependence upon foreign oil and, at the same time, increase greenhouse gas emissions?

And some of these people on this bill have the most pure environmental record in the U.S. Senate.

Renewable fuels like ethanol have a 40-year track record of making fuel more affordable and vehicles more efficient. To limit this consumer choice at the pump is completely irresponsible. Attempts to limit consumer choice, which are driven by big oil interests, must be defeated.

The United States should continue to build on the progress of the renewable fuel standard and bring policy to the table that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and brings jobs to rural America.

Let me end with a history of the RFS because this legislation is a story of irony if you consider how we got to the renewable fuel standard in the first place. You see, Big Oil wanted it. Why did they want it? Well, a lot of States where they had smog had what we call the oxygenate requirement. It was required in the Clean Air Acts that Congress has passed over the decades. In order to meet that standard, Big Oil would add what they call MTBE, a product made out of petroleum that they added to their gasoline to meet the oxygenate standards, to reduce smog.

After a long period of time, people realized that the MTBE was poisoning groundwater in California—maybe other places as well, but I remember mostly the conflict being in California—and they were being sued. So by 2005, Big Oil decided they didn't want to be sued, and what could they do to get out of it? Well, the RFS was the answer.

I was chairman of the Finance Committee at the time. They came to us with the ideas of the RFS, and it fit into a lot of things that we from agricultural interests were trying to accomplish as well. So the renewable fuel standard was written in cooperation with Big Oil—the first time in three decades that Big Oil had any interest in working with ethanol industry. Then, what, after 3 or 4 years of working with us, they have been attacking the RFS since then.

This piece of legislation I am speaking about today is just one more example of Big Oil trying to attack ethanol. And I gave all the facts about ethanol being good for the consumer, good for the environment, and good for less reliance on foreign countries for our energy sources. In fact, everything about ethanol is good, good, good.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOT VOTING—5

Burr
DainesJohnson
Moran

Rubio

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 122.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, July 22, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we go ahead with the previously arranged vote.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jill Hruby, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hruby nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Baldwin	Heinrich	Risch
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Rounds
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Booker	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lee	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Lummis	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Ossoff	Wicker
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	Young
Grassley	Portman	
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—16

Blackburn	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hawley	Shelby
Braun	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	
Cruz	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

COMMEMORATING THE PAST SUCCESS OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS AND SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Mr. ROMNEY. As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 314, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 314) commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ROMNEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution with Senators BENNET, HAGERTY, KLOBUCHAR, and COONS to honor the 2020 Olympic Games that officially start tomorrow.

More than 600 of our finest athletes have traveled to Tokyo to represent the United States. These athletes trained their entire lives to compete this month on the world's biggest stage. They have shed blood, sweat, and tears and have sacrificed countless hours, many while working separate full-time jobs and raising families of their own.

Of course, no one thought the 2020 Olympics would be starting tomorrow. COVID-19 did not just delay the Games for a year, it also meant hundreds of qualifying events around the world had to be canceled and relocated.

We recognize the dedication of the athletes and coaches of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams, as well as

the family, friends, and loved ones who support them.

We are grateful to our friends in Japan, who have committed tremendous resources to provide safe and secure Games. I have great gratitude for these people of Japan, the people of that great country, for the enormous sacrifice they have made to host the world, to demonstrate to the world that qualities of the human spirit are great indeed, and to make their home a place where the entire world comes to gather and celebrate the human spirit and its accomplishments.

And while these Games may look a little different this year, we stand with Team USA and will be cheering them on as they bring many medals back home.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

MEDICAID SAVES LIVES ACT

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, since my first day here in the Senate—and even before that—one of the issues I have been working to address is how my own home State of Georgia, where State leaders have been digging in their heels, refusing to expand Medicaid—how it is that citizens can somehow provide affordable healthcare to their families—nearly 500,000 Georgians who are uninsured. They are in the Medicaid gap.

That is why last week I introduced the Medicaid Saves Lives Act, legislation that would create a program almost identical to Medicaid that is administered by the Federal Government and would allow people in States like Georgia who have not expanded Medicaid, an alternative path to health coverage because we know that Medicaid literally saves lives.

I was proud to introduce this legislation with my colleagues Senators Baldwin and Ossoff and that it has the support of healthcare stakeholders in Georgia and from across the country. Entities like the Georgia Hospital Association and the Grady Health System understand how expanding Medicaid in Georgia will improve health outcomes across the State, strengthen our rural hospitals and healthcare workforce, and create good-paying jobs.

Medicaid saves lives and also saves jobs. As it turns out, the right thing to do is also the smart thing to do. And so I am glad that this plan is on its way to being included in the forthcoming economic package, and I am going to do everything I can to keep pushing to make sure that it happens.

But today, I come to the Senate floor to talk not so much about policy as

much as to talk about the people behind the policy efforts that we lift up. We should always endeavor to see the human face of the public policy we put forward.

So I want to talk today about Cynthia English. She is a truckdriver in Albany, GA. It is a town in the southern rural part of our State. Cynthia turns 46 in just a few days. Her birthday, actually, is this coming Saturday. Happy birthday, Cynthia.

Cynthia, a hard-working woman, suffers from diabetes and hypertension. She says that she has previously applied for Medicaid and other healthcare programs but has been repeatedly denied because she does not have any children. She does not have any dependents. So she has been denied, in spite of her relatively low income. She is in the coverage gap.

She says that those denials made her feel like she couldn't get any type of help. In fact, Cynthia says that in the past, her diabetes and her blood pressure have had her in "real bad shape," so much so that complications with her diabetes once sent her to the emergency room.

Think about the cost of that for her and for all of us, unable to get the kind of routine care that all of us need but especially if you have a chronic illness like hypertension or diabetes. It doesn't make sense for her or for us that she is in this situation. Without health insurance, Cynthia says she couldn't go to the doctor and that, due to the cost, it was hard to pay for medication. To put it bluntly, as Cynthia said, when you are sick in Georgia, "they still really don't help you if you don't have any health insurance or Medicaid."

Thankfully, Cynthia was able to find the Good Samaritan Clinic in Albany. As a pastor, I have to say that is a good name for a clinic, the Good Samaritan Clinic, in Albany. It offers healthcare to people like her in the coverage gap. She has been able to receive care for her conditions, including a pinched nerve in her neck and back caused by sciatica, another condition that went undiagnosed for far too long because of her lack of health insurance.

If it wasn't for the Good Samaritan Clinic, Cynthia says she wouldn't be here. But it is still not enough—grateful for them, but that is not enough. That clinic does amazing work, but that is not enough.

In other States, Cynthia would be eligible for Medicaid. According to Cynthia, having additional support provided by Medicaid would help her pay for her medications and get all the care that she needs. A hard-working woman, doing all the right things, cannot get the coverage that she needs.

So behind the public policy, we have to remember the stories of real people, people like Cynthia, because there are millions of Cynthias in Georgia and across our Nation who need the Medicaid Saves Lives Act. Until we get this done, I am going to keep lifting up

Cynthia's story and the stories of other Georgians who would benefit from this critical lifesaving legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD RESARI

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. It is that time of week that I like to come down to the Senate floor and recognize someone special, someone we call our Alaskan of the Week. And it is—well, it is part of my, like I said, favorite time during the week.

I think some of our press like it because it signifies that most people are leaving. When we had pages, they loved it. But the reason is because you get to learn a little bit about Alaska, some great stories, some great individuals who are usually doing something really great for their community, their State, sometimes the country, sometimes the world. A lot of times, it is people who maybe don't want any recognition but deserve it. So I am going to talk about our Alaskan of the week, who is 85-year-old Chad Resari. And it is a real amazing story.

First, I want to talk a little about what is going on in Alaska right now. In Anchorage, where our Alaskan of the week lives, the sun rose at 5:08 a.m. and will set tonight at 11:01 p.m. Now, that is a lot of sunlight, a lot of energy, even though we lost 4 minutes and 41 seconds since yesterday. So we are losing a lot of daylight, but we still have a lot.

So my message to everybody is: You still have time to come up to Alaska, bask in the midnight sun—or at least midnight twilight, depending on where you are. And if you have to wait until next year, we would love to have you.

I would tell you, if you come to Alaska next year, one of the many things you should try to see, or even participate in if you are brave enough, is the annual Mount Marathon Race on July 4 in Seward, AK. It is a race that Chad Resari has run 25 times. At 85 years old this year, he was officially the oldest person to have ever finished this race.

So competing and finishing any race at the age of 85 is impressive. But let me tell you why finishing this race at that age is truly extraordinary, an inspiration to everybody who is watching—and trust me, he has inspired tens of thousands of Alaskans for his feat.

First, the history: The race dates back to 1915 when legend has it two of what we call "sourdoughs" were in a bar in Seward. By the way, a lot of legends begin in bars in Alaska.

So they were wagering how long it would take to get up and down the 3,022-foot peak in Seward, AK—by the way, a very steep mountain. One insisted that it could be done in less than an hour. The other said, in effect, "No way." The loser was to buy the house a round of drinks. Somewhere in there, some entrepreneur decided to make it a real race, to make it on the Fourth of July. And so every year, the Mount Marathon Race has happened for over 100 years now.

The fastest runner in that first race—the race where there was a challenge in the bar, in 1915—did it in over an hour; the legend is one hour and 2 minutes. So he lost the bet. He had to buy rounds. But the race has lived on.

Now, the record holder is David Norris—he is from Anchorage—who ran the 2016 Mount Marathon in 41 minutes and 26 seconds.

David has since won the race two more times.

Now, here is the important thing about the race itself. It is more than a mile, and half of it is straight up a mountain and then back down a mountain, which is more precarious, 1½ miles.

Outside magazine calls it “the toughest 5K on the planet” Earth. Others use less polite words to describe it. But everyone who knows about the race will agree that anyone who takes to the mountain and completes it is a rock star. This, again, is from Outside magazine.

If you are watching or you are interested, Google Mount Marathon race in Seward, AK. You will get a sense from the pictures.

Here is what Outside magazine said—just a taste of what this race is like. I am quoting here:

That descent from Mount Marathon is sort of a controlled dive . . . a hectic sliding rush along loose, soft rock—

Oftentimes there is still snow up there—

. . . it's part running, part skiing, part falling, and it often leaves finishers dripping with blood or with gravel shrapnel embedded in their butts and legs.

And knees.

This is the most pure mountain race I can think of. It's straight up and straight down—no messing around.

One of this year's runners, who is one of the few professional runners who come from all over the world to run this race, he said:

Alaska doesn't mess around.

So that is the race. That is the race 85-year-old Chad Resari ran 3 weeks ago. Thousands of people come out to watch it. It is a huge event in Seward. Runners from around the world and our 85-year-old Alaskan just completed it.

Who is this tough, now-fabled person in my State?

Chad was born in Hawaii. His parents are Filipino. He spent most of his younger years with his parents on a sugar plantation in Maui. He was an active kid. He ran with his high school running team and, on his off time, sometimes ran up mountains. Good training for Mount Marathon later in his life.

After high school, he spent 7 years in the seminary. He is a deeply religious man. At the end of his time, he and his mentor decided that he should serve God, not as a priest, but as a layperson. And as a longtime member of our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Anchorage, he has stayed faithful to his mission since. In fact, my team was talking to

him yesterday and he was on his way to mass, which he does very, very, very regularly.

After the seminary, Chad was open to a new experience. Someone told him that the wages in Alaska were high, \$2.50 an hour at the time compared to about 90 cents an hour where he was.

Also, he had a brother in the Army stationed in Anchorage, so he said it “might be a good idea. Who knows, I might even be able to find some gold”—in Alaska—“too.”

Also, he read in Reader's Digest he could grow strawberries in Alaska, which is true. So he was intrigued.

He arrived in Anchorage on March 12, 1962. It was 15 degrees below zero. Chad said:

The weather was cool. I'll probably like it here.

He didn't really like the heat and humidity in Hawaii.

He initially worked as a custodian at Catholic Junior High, then began to get interested in coaching students. As a pastor at the school took note of his interest in teaching, he helped send him to then Alaska Methodist University, now Alaska Pacific University, to get his teaching degree.

Until 1966, when Chad retired, he taught PE, first at Central Junior High, then at Mears Junior High. He taught basketball, hockey, soccer, softball, track and field—you name it. Great coach, and he loved working with students and teachers and the other coaches.

Throughout those years, and obviously later, he practiced what he preached. Not only did he continue running, he lifted weights, winning first place in his weight class in a power-lifting competition in 1973.

Although he continued to run and stay in shape, he ran the fabled Mount Marathon race just twice, in 1963 and in 1964, but then he took a long break because the training for the race is very rigorous and time-consuming. He was married then to Edna—49 years now—teaching, coaching, raising three daughters. He just didn't have time to train for this race.

But in 1996, after he retired, he started to train and run Mount Marathon again. He began in earnest from that time. He has only missed this race twice. Once when smoke from forest fires made it too dangerous and again last year, when the race was canceled due to COVID. So he really hasn't missed it at all.

What is his secret?

“I'm not sure I have any secret,” he said. “My wife is a nurse and she makes sure I have my fruits and vegetables,” and like a lot of Alaskans, “I eat a lot of fish,” he said.

They go to mass daily. They always say their evening and morning prayers. When they travel, they pray for their own safety and the safety for everybody on the road or on the airplane with them.

“That's what the Lord would want us to do: keep others in mind.”

You can see Chad is a good man, a spiritual man. He credits God for giving him the strength and stamina to do what he just did, make it up a 3,000-foot mountain, 1½ miles straight up.

This race, when he was officially the oldest person to ever have run it and complete it, was very challenging. But it was also particularly special for him. All across the trail, the people watching—and when you go to Seward, you will see thousands of people—the people running the race, the officials, everybody in Alaska seemed like they were cheering Chad on, 85-year-old Chad running one of the toughest 5Ks on the planet Earth.

One of his former students, now in his 70s, was also there cheering him on. This year, his youngest daughter Trina also ran the race. Tough family. When the finish line was in sight, he could see her and his other daughters, Joanna, Sheila, and their children, who all ran up to urge him to finish strong, get to the finish line. His wife, his niece and her husband, his friends were all there cheering for him when he crossed the finish line of Mount Marathon; 2 hours, 29 minutes, 23 seconds up and down a steep mountain in Alaska at the tender age of 85 years old.

It was challenging, he said. And after, he was definitely tired. But here is the thing. He plans to do it next year and the year after that and the year after that. He says, as long as he can do it, he is going to continue to do it. “For some reason, I just enjoy running that race,” he said.

So Chad, thank you for being such a great inspiration. Thank you for praying for everybody, keeping your fellow Alaskans and Americans in your prayers.

Congratulations on being the oldest person ever to run the fabled Mount Marathon race. And, importantly, congratulations for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 167, 196, 197, 198, 199, and 200; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The nominations considered and agreed to en bloc are as follows:

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Heidi Shyu, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering;

Ely Stefansky Ratner, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Shawn Graham Skelly, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Meredith Berger, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Gina Maria Ortiz Jones, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force; and Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELECTIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will get right to the point: the very definition of democracy in the United States is under attack. You see it in State legislatures across the country. Powerful partisans advancing bill after bill to restrict voters' access to the ballot box. It flies in the face of the very evolution of progress.

Gone are the days when voters rode on horseback or walked for miles to cast their ballot. Technological advances, commonsense understandings of the daily lives of hard-working Americans—all these things and more recommend an open, accessible, expanded, and secure election process. Yet instead of seizing these opportunities to ensure every voice, every vote counts, partisan efforts are afoot to take us back—back to a time when senseless barriers were erected to block the votes of very specific communities.

The U.S. Senate—the democratically elected U.S. Senate—should not stand for such an assault on our democracy. And every Senator who swears the oath of office should stand up and stand against this bitter attack on the ballot box.

Protecting the right to vote has long been bipartisan. I stood alongside my dear friend, himself a soldier in the war against voter oppression, John Lewis, when we reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006. And it was with a heavy—but hopeful—heart that I reintroduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act last year to bear his name. I will soon do so again. This bipartisan legislation should advance, and quickly.

Now is the time for every American—regardless of party, regardless of politics—to stand in defense of our democracy. To stand for what is right, and to stand with the clear arc of history—the arc that bends toward justice, toward inclusion, towards equality. With one loud and clear voice, we should reject erosions of voter protections. And we should do so now.

Vermont has always been at the forefront of expanding access to the ballot, and one of our State's leaders in that fight has been Secretary of State Jim Condos. I ask unanimous consent that a column by Secretary Condos, published in the July 14 edition of The Times Argus, be printed in the RECORD. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Times Argus, July 14, 2021]

OUR DEMOCRACY IS AT A CROSSROADS

(By Jim Condos)

"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it"—John Lewis

This month we celebrated the birth of our nation.

Since its inception, American democracy has undergone continual transformation. During the past 245 years, many activists and advocates have fought tirelessly to expand the franchise that our democratic ideals depend on: the right to vote.

From suffragettes to civil rights leaders, their work has ensured that the march of progress has been oriented forward, focused on increasing access to the ballot box.

This Independence Day was an opportunity to reflect on the resiliency of our country and of our democracy. There has been no shortage of challenges during the past year and a half. Despite these challenges, we achieved record breaking turnout for a general election, which nonpartisan experts have described as the most secure and the most scrutinized election in U.S. history. We were able to do so with common-sense voting reforms, providing voters with more options for receiving and casting their ballot.

After the ballot counting was completed, and the careful town by town certification process took place, we had official results and a list of election winners and losers, just like every other general election in memory.

Unlike other election years, what has followed has brought our democracy to a crossroads. Without producing any evidence, the former president and his allies have used known false voter-fraud claims as justification for their attempts to use state legislatures and phony 'fraudits' to supersede the will of the people and, more significantly, to restrict access to the ballot box.

Our democratic principles should have to endure constant debate. However, willfully disregarding the certified, official election results in an effort to circumvent the will of the people and prevent the peaceful transition of power sets our country on a dangerous path.

Sending us even further into treacherous territory, some state legislatures are using 'the Big Lie' to roll back the voter access expansions made during 2020, and to further suppress voting rights through measures such as the implementation of more restrictive voter ID laws, limits on the ballot-by-mail request period, elimination or reduction in ballot drop boxes, and closure of polling precincts.

After record-breaking turnout in 2020, and with zero evidence of widespread fraud or election rigging, why would they want to make it harder for eligible Americans to vote? The answer is simple: because they were unhappy with the results and want fewer people to vote.

Overall, there have been over 350 bills introduced in 47 states with the sole purpose of reducing access to the ballot. In June alone, 17 state legislatures enacted 28 new voter restriction laws. A small few include reasonable, understandable reforms.

Most make no sense at all. It is clear that some lawmakers would prefer to pick their voters, rather than voters picking their representatives.

Frankly, I am concerned for our nation. We stand at a crossroads, and the decisions we make now will ripple throughout time.

There is hope. In Vermont, we saw the record turnout as a positive, so we made the mailing of ballots to all voters a permanent fixture of Vermont general elections. We also created a new pathway for voters to correct a defective ballot so that their vote will count. We did this by working across the aisles with the support of Democrats, Republicans, Progressives and independents.

In the face of the alarming rise in state-level attacks on voting rights, we cannot afford to wait for solutions one-by-one in all 50 states. With the gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court, we no longer have the luxury of a "wait and see" approach. Congress can, and must, create minimum voter access and fairness standards that states must abide by, so that eligible voters are not being denied their voting rights.

The true voter fraud in this country is denying any eligible American their right to register and vote.

Congress alone can put an end to restrictive and unnecessary obstacles to voting, prohibit racebased and partisan gerrymandering, make automatic, online and same day voter registration the law of the land, and make voting by mail accessible for every voter, regardless of which side of an invisible line you live on.

Two federal bills pending, the For the People Act, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, give Congress this opportunity to act. The time has come for the partisan, political games to stop. Those who are prioritizing the promotion of politically motivated falsehoods about the security of our elections, over the voting rights of the people who put them in office, are committing a severe dereliction of duty.

In 2021, our democracy has come to a crossroads. Fortunately, we have a roadmap, we just need to follow it.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since the start of the pandemic, the State of Vermont, at every level of its leadership, has taken heroic efforts to mitigate spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus. With strong leadership from Gov. Phil Scott, and bolstered by a firm belief in scientific facts, the State nearly halted altogether the spread of COVID-19, minimized the number of Vermonters lost to the disease, and now leads the Nation in the percentage of residents who have received at least one vaccine shot. As we look to hopefully soon be on the other side of this pandemic, I strongly believe that there are invaluable lessons to be learned from Vermont's response, so that we are better prepared for the days, months, and years ahead.

Aisha K. Jha's "Vermont's and South Dakota's COVID Infection Rates are Remarkably Similar—But their Outcomes are Not" article published in the Washington Post on July 13, 2021, reviews the important steps Vermont took to not only protect the health of its residents but also ensure that minimal economic damage was done given

the circumstances. A strong public health approach, led by Vermont Health Commissioner Mark Levine, always communicated scientific evidence clearly and thoughtfully. This fostered a sense of trust and community that has now resulted in Vermont nearing herd immunity and able to fully reopen local businesses for everyone to enjoy.

I am so proud of every Vermonter who stepped up to do their part to not only protect themselves, but their families, friends, and neighbors. This is truly the Vermont way. I know that if all States followed Vermont's example, and continued to vaccinate all residents, we would be able to put this dark chapter of American history in our rearview mirror.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article mentioned above, about the important work in Vermont to protect our State from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 13, 2021]

VERMONT'S AND SOUTH DAKOTA'S COVID INFECTION RATES ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR—BUT THEIR OUTCOMES ARE NOT

(By Ashish K. Jha)

Two states. Two different paths in responding to COVID-19. Together, they offer invaluable lessons about the road ahead for the nation—especially as infection rates creep up because of the delta variant.

The two states are Vermont and South Dakota. Both feature among the three states that COVID Act Now classifies as falling in the lowest-risk category, along with Massachusetts. This may be a surprise. While New England states are known to have done extraordinarily well in vaccinating their populations, South Dakota is in the middle of the pack. So, what explains the fact that South Dakota has infection numbers almost as low as Vermont, the most vaccinated state in the nation?

Let's start with some basics. Vermont and South Dakota share several important similarities. Both have relatively White, older and rural populations. They have comparable median incomes. Both states have Republican governors, challenging the simplistic notion that COVID risk is a partisan phenomenon.

Over the past two months, the rates of infection in Vermont and South Dakota have appeared remarkably similar. Both states have seen steep declines in cases, making both states near the best in terms of infections per population.

But this is where the similarity ends. While nearly 75 percent of Vermonters have had at least one vaccine shot, putting the state near the threshold for herd immunity, only half of South Dakotans have had at least one shot. South Dakota's substantial population immunity instead comes in large part from prior infections, particularly during the fall. This massive surge in infections was driven by the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in August that brought nearly half a million people to South Dakota, sparking outbreaks across that state and, indeed, the nation. With little to no interest on the part of its governor to squelch the outbreak, South Dakota reached the highest levels of infection seen by any state during the pandemic. At its peak, the state was reporting more than 160 new cases per 100,000 residents. Vermont, in comparison, never climbed above 30 cases per 100,000.

Unsurprisingly, these states experienced stunningly different outcomes. Adjusted for population, nearly six times as many people died in South Dakota from covid-19 as in Vermont (230 per 100,000 in South Dakota compared to just 40 per 100,000 in Vermont). In real numbers, while about 250 Vermont residents died from the disease, more than 2,000 South Dakotans died. And as of today, Vermont has a lower unemployment rate, suggesting that there need not be any trade-off between public health and the economy.

By some estimates, nearly half of the people of South Dakota may have been infected. These infections led to huge amounts of suffering beyond the deaths themselves. We are seeing an increasing body of evidence that many who survive serious illness from the virus have long-term complications and symptoms. When infections spike, a run on hospital beds means other people die because they can't access hospital care, which almost surely occurred in South Dakota at the height of the surge. Vermont took a different approach, keeping public health measures in place to keep infections low and then, building up population immunity through excellent vaccination campaigns.

The virus isn't going away. In fact, it is likely to become endemic, meaning it will continue to circulate, occasionally causing outbreaks in low-vaccination communities. Most people will encounter the virus at one point or another. And if they don't have immunity from vaccines, many will get sick. The harms from infection are large, especially in comparison to the generally mild side-effects of the vaccines. And there is some evidence that the vaccine-induced immunity is more effective than natural infection-induced immunity. As the highly contagious delta variant spreads, states that have experienced high levels of infection such as South Dakota may be more vulnerable than highly vaccinated states such as Vermont.

In the spring of 2020, governors had to make decisions with little federal guidance and little historical precedent. But by that summer, it was much clearer how to curtail the disease, protect public health and manage the economy carefully. By following the science, Vermont saved an enormous number of lives and has now reached a degree of population immunity through vaccination that makes large outbreaks unlikely. Embracing a policy of "personal responsibility," South Dakota did little to protect its residents, leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 South Dakotans and the suffering of tens of thousands more. To avoid more unnecessary outbreaks, we need to learn from states that have successfully weathered the pandemic, follow the science and keep vaccinating Americans.

REMEMBERING HARRY CHAPIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been 40 years since the Nation lost a champion for the hungry, and the American people lost a talented and inspirational musical artist. And I lost a dear partner and friend.

I was proud to have been able to work side by side with Harry Chapin on several projects to address hunger, here at home, and in the world. We strategized. We met with other Senators to build support. And I got to know him well. He stayed at our home and even sang for our enthralled children. I was with him on the grounds of the Capitol Building when he pulled out his guitar and gave an impromptu

concert. Passersby were drawn to him, and it was one more magical moment, among so many with Harry.

Harry had incredible energy and drive and commitment to his goals. Bill Ayres, a former Catholic priest who cofounded the organization WhyHunger with Harry, has noted that Harry used to say: "When in doubt, do something." And do something, he certainly did. Since its founding in 1975, WhyHunger has raised more than \$30 million to help more than 10 million families, children, veterans, and others around the world gain access to nutritious food and vital services.

One of Harry's ideas was to convince President Jimmy Carter to form a Commission on world hunger. I readily signed on to help him. When we had that meeting with the President in the Cabinet Room, Harry's persistence was on overdrive. President Carter agreed to establish the Commission. So that goal was in hand. But Harry kept telling the President why we should do this, and President Carter kept trying to tell Harry that he agreed with him. Harry was wound up and excited to have the chance to lay out the case for a Commission. And I finally said: "Harry, don't talk him out of it." Everyone laughed because we all knew that it was a moment that distilled the pure energy for which we all loved and admired him.

I worked with Senator Byron Dorgan and others in gaining authorization for a Congressional Gold Medal, which I was honored to carry to a memorial concert at Carnegie Hall to present to Harry's family. Harry Belafonte and Bruce Springsteen were there and so were so many others who had known and worked with Harry. Harry Belafonte, whom I also admire so deeply, has said this:

I grew to really admire him, not only for his commitment to the cause of hunger, but also the fact that he did it with such passion, such real commitment. As an artist, I certainly loved his work. Not only his music, but the content of his words. He spoke about the human condition with a sense of humor and as a lyricist he had his hand on the pulse of social needs.

A few years ago, I received a letter from a 16-year-old Canadian boy in Newmarket, Ontario, Ryan Kruger. He had heard about my work with Harry and wanted me to know how much he admires him.

"I am a big fan of Harry," he wrote, "and think he exemplifies the ideals of both of our respective nations, as well as the world, or at least what they should be. In this volatile political climate, on both sides of the border, as well as around the world, I think we need a bit more Harry."

And we certainly do.

Harry's children wrote an eloquent tribute that was carried in the New York Daily News on July 16. They, and many of us, want to keep alight and aloft the candle that helps Harry Chapin's important legacy live on and on.

I commend their tribute to the attention of the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent to have the article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Daily News, July 16, 2021]

HOW HARRY CHAPIN, OUR DAD, FOUGHT HUNGER

(By Josh Chapin, Jen Chapin, Jason Chapin, Jono Chapin and Jaime Chapin)

For many, attaining fame and fortune is enough to feel successful. For our father, Harry Chapin, it wasn't. His true fulfillment came through service, and 40 years following his untimely death, along with his timeless hit song "Cat's in the Hat," our dad's passionate commitment to ending hunger is what he is best remembered for. During his life (1942–1981), he released 11 albums, performed 220 concerts a year, and received Grammy and Oscar nominations as well as Emmy, Tony and many other awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal. While music was his passion, our father's success became not laurels to rest upon but rather a platform that led to his becoming one of the leading humanitarians of his generation.

Through starting three dynamic and visionary organizations in his short lifetime, WhyHunger, Long Island Cares and the Center for Food Action in New Jersey, he left a lasting impact in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Today marks 40 years since our father's passing in an automobile accident on the Long Island Expressway. It's been four decades without him—four decades of change in culture, politics, music and technology—but after all that change, and even a global pandemic, his legacy organizations WhyHunger and Long Island Cares remain centered on fulfilling our dad's mission of deeply understanding the root causes of hunger and seeking solutions grounded in community power and self-reliance.

Notably, during his lifetime, our father worked with President Jimmy Carter, his dear friend and Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, Republican Sen. Bob Dole, and a bipartisan team to form the first and only Presidential Commission on World Hunger. Our father's work to create political urgency and a truly patriotic, bipartisan dialogue surrounding the human right to nutritious food—in our wealthy nation and in a world that can feed itself many times over—should be a call to inspire a new surge of commitment today.

While he embarked on a mission decades ago to combat hunger, the work is far from complete. Today, nearly 2.1 million New Yorkers face hunger every day. On Long Island, nearly half a million face the same reality—a problem that's many times worse than when he started Long Island Cares in 1980. These statistics are staggering, and sadly have increased over recent years. While prior to COVID-19, Long Island neared a 40% reduction of food insecurity, during the height of the pandemic, an additional 223,000 Long Islanders became food insecure, nearly doubling the prior population count.

A generous charitable response and a massive, industrialized emergency food system are not enough. What our father understood years ago is that in order to ameliorate this needless suffering, we need to address the root causes and advance the human right to nutritious food in the U.S. and around the world. Hunger in the U.S. and hunger around the world are deeply connected, and thanks to the work of WhyHunger and our diverse array of partners, exciting alliances are building self-reliance and lasting change. WhyHunger has shown that by offering crit-

ical resources to support grassroots movements, we can build community solutions rooted in social, environmental, racial and economic justice.

Our hope is that the current administration is prepared to substantively address these issues and do what our father knew was, and still is, possible: bring an end to hunger. Currently, Rep. James McGovern of Massachusetts is asking President Biden to convene a new White House Conference on Hunger, just as our father pushed for four decades ago. When asked what his motivation was for this cause, McGovern said that meeting Harry left a lasting impression on his political views on hunger.

What Harry Chapin began with WhyHunger, Long Island Cares and the Center for Food Action continues to make a great impact, but of course there is more to be done. More organizations need to realize that fighting hunger is not only about handing out food in times of need, or even the proverbial teaching people to fish—it is about supporting social movements so that people can organize, advocate and work together to ensure they will always be able to feed their families. Additionally, we need to keep speaking up for social and legislative reform that promotes social and economic justice. If you happened to love our father's music and message, if you care about America reaching its yet unrealized mission of justice for all, or if you want to live in a more peaceful and sustainable world, consider this a call to action.

The authors are the sons and daughters of Harry Chapin.

TRIBUTE TO TANNER HAUCK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tanner Hauck, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Tanner is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, where he is pursuing degrees in finance and business entrepreneurship. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tanner for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MEYER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Steven Meyer, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Steven is a recent graduate of Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, having earned a degree in government and criminal justice. This fall, Steven plans to attend the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University in Washington, DC. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Steven for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL SCHOON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rachel Schoon, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Rachel is from Brandon, SD, where she graduated a semester early from homeschool to participate in a 6-month-long mission trip overseas. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where she is pursuing degrees in communications and political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachel for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SILVERNAGEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Samuel Silvernagel, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Samuel is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, having earned degrees in Russian and business law. This fall, Samuel plans to continue serving the American people by working on Capitol Hill. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Samuel for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KYLEE VAN EGDOM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kylee Van Egdome, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kylee is a graduate of Sioux Falls Christian High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where she is majoring in government. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kylee for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

July 22, 2021.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE: The nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, vice Neil Gregory Komze, PN 443, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 10 ayes to 10 nays.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

JOE MANCHIN III,
Chairman.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, on July 19, 2021, I missed rollcall vote No. 267 on confirmation of Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yes on her confirmation.

TRISOMY 13

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I rise to thank Belle Lunders, one of my constituents, for sharing the significance of Trisomy 13 awareness.

I ask unanimous consent that her statement regarding Trisomy 13 be submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Trisomy 13 is a chromosomal disorder where the 13th pair of chromosomes have an extra copy creating three chromosomes. Trisomy 13 is the least common and most severe of the feasible autosomal trisomies. Median survival is fewer than three days. It affects one in every 8,000 to 12,000 live births.

Babies born with Trisomy 13 can have many health problems and more than 80 percent don't survive more than a few weeks. Between 86 percent and 91 percent of live births do not live past their first year. Survival beyond the first year is associated with mosaicism. There is no cure for Trisomy 13 but different treatments depend on the symptoms. In most cases surgery and therapy are the best options. Prenatal testing and ultrasound can confirm a Trisomy 13 diagnosis through amniocentesis.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2467. An act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3985. An act to amend the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2467. An act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-24. A joint memorial adopted by the legislature of the State of Colorado urging the Department of Defense to keep the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) in Colorado; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 21-001

Whereas, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities, and Colorado is paving the way for new discoveries in the frontiers of space by having a rich history in aerospace development and being at the forefront of space travel, exploration, and aerospace research; and

Whereas, Colorado is the acting provisional Space Command Base and it will remain the provisional base until 2023. Colorado is also the center for United States military space operations and strategy. According to the Colorado Space Coalition (CSC), the state's military commands are the primary customers for space-based research, development, acquisitions, and operations, representing nearly 90 percent of space-related expenditure by the military. Moving the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) to Huntsville, Alabama, will be incredibly disruptive to the National Defense Strategy. In addition, it will cause a major upheaval in existing infrastructure and jobs

in the state, which will result in higher costs and less efficient outcomes for the United States military; and

Whereas, Colorado is strategically located at the center of our national and space defense. We are the home to five key strategic military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), United States Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC Space) Missile Warning Center, the United States Air Force Space Command, and the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; and five military installations, including United States Air Force bases Buckley, Cheyenne Mountain, Peterson, and Schriever, as well as Fort Carson Army Base; and

Whereas, The 460th Space Wing at Buckley Air Force Base provides operational command and control of three constellations to space-based infrared missile warning systems, has been defending America continuously since 1970, and is a critical part of global defense and national security; and

Whereas, Colorado leads the charge in bringing current and future global positioning system (GPS) assets to life, a service provided free to the world by Air Force Space Command in Colorado Springs. From the operation of GPS satellites by Schriever Air Force Base to GPS III, the most powerful GPS satellite to date—being designed and built by Lockheed Martin and launched by United Launch Alliance with Raytheon developing the command and control capabilities, and with companies such as Boeing, Harris Corporation, Braxton Technologies, and Infinity Systems Engineering also supporting GPS development and operations from locations in Colorado, GPS technologies enable an integral part of our global economy to have an incalculable impact that has improved the everyday lives of billions of people around the world; and

Whereas, Colorado's aerospace industry is home to a broad range of companies that create products and systems for commercial, military, and civil space applications, such as spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations. These companies include Ball Aerospace, Boeing, DigitalGlobe, Harris Corporation, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and United Launch Alliance, which make up a large portion of the aerospace sector; and

Whereas, Colorado has an existing educated workforce, ranked second in the nation with residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, and a pipeline of higher education institutions to sustain future growth. We are home to the United States Air Force Academy and many colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College. Altogether, they provide access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offer aerospace companies one of the country's most educated workforces; and

Whereas, Colorado is home to some amazing research institutions. These institutions include the prestigious Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado Boulder. It began in 1948, a decade before NASA, and is the world's only research institute to have sent instruments to all eight planets and to Pluto, combining all aspects of space exploration through science, engineering, mission operations, and scientific data analysis; and

Whereas, Colorado is also home to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center, a world-leading center of predictions for the solar and near-Earth space environment and the nation's official source of watches, warnings, and alerts of incoming solar storms, using satellite observations to protect and save lives and property; and

Whereas, Various organizations are key to Colorado's prominence in aerospace, such as the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to make Colorado a center of excellence for aerospace; the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, working to bring together aerospace stakeholders from the industry, government, and academia for roundtable discussions and business development and to encourage grassroots citizen participation in aerospace issues; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance in our economy and daily lives, as well as to promote the importance of human space exploration; Manufacturer's Edge, a statewide manufacturing assistance center that encourages the strength and competitiveness of Colorado manufacturers by providing on-site technical assistance through coaching, training, and consulting, by providing collaboration-focused industry programs, and by leveraging government, university, and economic development partnerships; and the Space Foundation, founded in 1983, with its world headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which holds an annual Space Symposium, bringing together civil, commercial, and national security space leaders from around the world to discuss, address, and plan for the future of space; and

Whereas, For the aforementioned reasons, it is in the best interests of the American taxpayer to keep USSPACECOM in the state because Colorado is already fulfilling the mission of the USSPACECOM; because Colorado Springs has in place the community infrastructure capacity and community support to champion an expanding mission; because the move will cost the United States billions of dollars to relocate the facility; and because the move would severely disrupt the Colorado aerospace industry, which has grown to support the mission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

(1) Recognizing Colorado's unique blend of military installations and major commands, private aerospace companies, academic and research institutions, and government entities, and the valuable synergies this ecosystem produces, strongly urge the Department of Defense and the incoming Biden-Harris administration to reevaluate the merits of this irresponsible decision and should rightly conclude that it is the correct decision to keep the existing United States Space Command in Colorado;

(2) Furthermore, strongly urge the Department of Defense and the incoming presidential administration to permanently base the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) in Colorado, recognizing that Colorado provides the existing command structure, base infrastructure, and communications platforms necessary to successfully host additional national security initiatives and ensure coordination of efforts without committing additional funds;

(3) Proudly express that Colorado has deep ties with the Department of Defense and immense patriotic commitment to providing

for the nation's security and bolstering our defense;

(4) Express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to our service members and civilian employees working in and supporting military and civilian aerospace companies, military installations, and civil organizations in Colorado; and

(5) Hereby declare Colorado to be the prime location for the permanent headquarters for USSPACECOM. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Senate Joint Memorial be sent to President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; Vice President-elect Kamala Harris; Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi; Congressman Kevin McCarthy; Senator Chuck Schumer; Senator Mitch McConnell; Senator Michael Bennet; Senator John Hickenlooper; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Jason Crow; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Ed Perlmutter; Jim Bridenstine, NASA Administrator; James W. Morhard, NASA Deputy Administrator; Steve Dickson, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard; Wayne R. Monteith, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration; General John W. "Jay" Raymond, Air Force Space Commander; Colonel Jacob Middleton, USAF, Commander Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Thomas E. Zelibor, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald Sega, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; and Stacey DeFore, Chair, Colorado Citizens Space Exploration.

POM-25. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of North Dakota urging the United States Congress to pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013

Whereas, upon statehood in 1889, North Dakota was granted 2.6 million acres of scattered lands and minerals with the purpose of funding education and public needs within the state; and

Whereas, establishment of tribal nations and the Little Missouri National Grasslands trapped state-owned lands and minerals within these boundaries which often are very difficult for North Dakota to access and manage; and

Whereas, North Dakota currently holds over 130,000 acres of minerals and over 31,000 surface acres within tribal nations alone, which are largely unable to be developed by the state pursuant to North Dakota's mandate to generate income for schools, universities, and other public purposes; and

Whereas, authorizing North Dakota to relinquish North Dakota land grant parcels located within tribal nations and the grasslands and to select other federal lands or minerals in lieu of not receiving full access to and use of the original land since North Dakota attained statehood will fulfill the promise of land and minerals to North Dakota, provide to Indian tribes greater tribal sovereignty and control of lands and minerals within tribal nations, and provide for greater conservation and preservation of the grasslands; and

Whereas, Congress should authorize North Dakota to relinquish the lands and minerals located within tribal nations and the grass-

lands; and to select in lieu of the relinquished land other federal lands or minerals within North Dakota of equal value: *Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of North Dakota, the House of Representatives Concurring Therein:*

That the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the United States Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

POM-26. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the President of the United States to end the pause on offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

Whereas, the oil and natural gas industry has historically provided thousands of high-paying jobs for Louisianans working in production or transportation of oil and natural gas, generating millions of dollars in annual revenue for state and local programs, and decreasing America's dependence on imported oil; and

Whereas, recent action by the federal government has paused offshore oil and natural gas leasing and stopped pipeline development; and

Whereas, an extended leasing ban would greatly diminish investment and activity in Gulf of Mexico production and result in substantial, irreplaceable job losses and loss of revenue to the state and its communities; and

Whereas, Gulf of Mexico production provides the only annual recurring revenue from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, more commonly referred to as GOMESA, a standing revenue sharing arrangement; and

Whereas, under the GOMESA revenue sharing provisions, Gulf oil and gas producing states, including Louisiana, split 37.5 percent of qualified outer continental shelf revenues and 12.5 percent of revenues are directed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund stateside program, through which states can receive up to \$125 million a year in grants; and

Whereas, the GOMESA revenues fund vital coastal protection and restoration programs as set forth by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast; and

Whereas, an Obama Administration report from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management analyzing the effects of offshore leasing restrictions found that United States greenhouse gas emissions would be little affected and would increase globally in the absence of new offshore leasing due to increased foreign imports; and

Whereas, the Gulf of Mexico has the lowest carbon intensity in the world in terms of emissions, other than Saudi Arabia, and would be lower than Saudi imports, with 1,274,450 barrels of oil or 62 percent of all 2021 Gulf of Mexico deepwater production being produced by a public corporation with an existing net zero pledge; and

Whereas, the oil and natural gas industry has invested over \$108 billion in greenhouse gas mitigating technologies contributing to a sharp decline in emission of CO₂ in the United States; and

Whereas, from 2000 to 2018, emissions declined 67 percent in the United States relative to oil and gas production; and

Whereas, in the same period of time, the carbon dioxide emissions in the rest of the world increased by 29 percent; and

Whereas, the 2020 Louisiana Emissions Analysis, published by the Consumer Energy Alliance, a leading voice for sensible energy policies for families and businesses, found that emissions declined by 71 percent across the state since 1990; and

Whereas, during that same period of emissions reduction, Louisiana's gross domestic product surged 177 percent; and

Whereas, pipeline transportation provides a consumer-friendly and intrinsically safer mode of transportation compared to others that have higher emissions; and

Whereas, restricting pipeline development results in higher costs to consumers and higher transportation emissions; and

Whereas, because projections show energy demand will continue to rise, restricting development on federal lands and waters is nothing more than an "import more oil" policy forcing the United States to rely on imports from sometimes hostile foreign countries with lower environmental standards; and

Whereas, broad and predictable access to offshore oil and natural gas resources will help support and grow more jobs and activity in Louisiana and the Gulf region, reduce America's reliance on overseas imports, and increase revenues to the state and its localities. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the administration of President Biden to immediately end its pause on offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana also expresses its support for the ongoing development of America's superior pipeline transportation network to the benefit of American consumers and American workers and allow the inherent economic benefits thereof to be fully realized; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, and to the members of the capitol press corps.

POM-27. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to pass the "Retired Pay Restoration Act"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 260

Whereas, A 19th Century law requires military retired pay to be offset, dollar for dollar, by the amount of disability compensation received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

Whereas, Military retired pay earned by service and sacrifice in defending the United States should not be reduced because a military retiree is also eligible for veterans' disability compensation awarded for a service-connected disability; and

Whereas, Retired pay and disability compensation are different types of compensation—retired pay is provided to recognize a career of uniformed service while VA disability compensation is compensation for pain, suffering, and lost future earning power due to service-connected disabilities; and

Whereas, The "Retired Pay Restoration Act" pending before Congress would permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of

their years of military service and disability compensation from the VA; and

Whereas, Service members make countless sacrifices in service to this country and State and should not be forced to forfeit their military retired pay because a 19th Century law reduces their retirement benefit by the amount they receive in disability compensation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass the "Retired Pay Restoration Act."

2. Copies of the resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice-President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-28. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and President of the United States to pass and enact the "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 262

Whereas, The State is home to approximately 355,000 U.S. military veterans; and

Whereas, Under current federal law, a military veteran with a service-connected disability can only claim concurrent retirement and disability pay if the veteran has a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or higher; and

Whereas, Disability rating is a percentage assigned by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to reflect the severity of a veteran's disability; and

Whereas, Concurrent retirement and disability pay allows military veterans to claim military retirement pay without having the retirement pay offset by the amount of disability compensation that those veterans receive; and

Whereas, Under current federal law, a military veteran not receiving concurrent retirement and disability pay has his or her military retirement pay reduced dollar for dollar by the amount received from veteran disability compensation; and

Whereas, A military veteran who is entitled to both retirement pay and disability compensation should not be subject to a retirement pay reduction for receiving disability compensation; and

Whereas, The federal "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act" would allow a veteran with a disability rating lower than 50 percent to receive concurrent retirement and disability pay; and

Whereas, Currently, a military veteran under Chapter 61 can only claim concurrent retirement and disability pay if the veteran has at least 20 years of service; and

Whereas, A Chapter 61 military veteran is one who retires from the military due to a service-connected disability and whose disability rating is 30 percent or higher; and

Whereas, The federal "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act" would allow a military veteran under Chapter 61 with less than 20 years of service to receive concurrent retirement and disability pay; and

Whereas, The federal government should not limit the amount of retirement pay a military veteran receives just because the military veteran also receives disability compensation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the Congress and President of the United States to pass and enact

the "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act."

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress elected from this State.

POM-29. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico requesting the United States Congress and the President of the United States to base payments in lieu of taxes on a full property tax equivalency basis; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

Whereas, payments in lieu of taxes are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to the existence of nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of the Interior, New Mexico has twenty-two million three hundred sixty-nine thousand five hundred thirty-one acres of land eligible for payments in lieu of taxes; and

Whereas, New Mexico received forty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$41,400,000) of payments in lieu of taxes from the Federal Government in Fiscal Year 2020; and

Whereas, technology now exists to more accurately determine the property tax equivalency value of all federal lands in the State; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, when the Federal Government changed its public lands policy in 1976 from one of disposal to one of retention, Congress agreed to make payments in lieu of taxes "to make up for the presence of nontaxable land" on a "tax equivalency" basis; and

Whereas, tax equivalency means the amount that would have been received by these jurisdictions if the federal lands were privately owned; and

Whereas, the Federal commitment to pay the property tax equivalency for payments in lieu of taxes is vital for New Mexico's children and communities and is particularly important during periods of fluctuating economic conditions; and

Whereas, New Mexico appreciates every dollar of payments in lieu of taxes received, yet the payments in lieu of taxes that New Mexico receives are not the fair property tax equivalency value, resulting in exponentially compounding depressive impacts on funding for education and essential government services, including first responder services, the construction of roads, schools and other infrastructure and search and rescue services; and

Whereas, the current fluctuating economic conditions have intensified this structural burden borne by New Mexico residents and communities to fund education and all other government services; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico that it call upon the United States Congress and the President of the United States to base payments in lieu of taxes on a full property tax equivalency basis, as committed at the inception of the payment in lieu of taxes program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of New Mexico call upon the United States Congress and the President of the United States to coordinate expeditiously and in

good faith with New Mexico and other willing states to adopt such laws, regulations and policies as are necessary to ensure that all future payments in lieu of taxes are permanently made on a full property tax equivalency basis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of New Mexico call upon all people of good will and local, state and national leaders to come together to secure the full and fair property tax equivalency of payments in lieu of taxes for children and communities throughout New Mexico and the Nation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and the Governor of New Mexico.

POM-30. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States to support the Keystone XL Pipeline, reverse his decision to cancel the permit, and to support American jobs and energy cooperation with our Canadian neighbors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

Whereas, In order to continue fueling our economy, the United States will need more oil and natural gas. Despite efforts to increase the use of renewable energy, the United States is still many years away from ending its dependence on nonrenewable resources; and

Whereas, While working towards cleaner energy standards and pursuing ways to use energy more efficiently is laudable, blindly rejecting the critical role of the oil and gas industry in fueling America's economy will not only result in skyrocketing energy prices, but will also cripple job growth. Those most impacted by increased prices to heat their homes, fill their gas tanks, and keep the lights on are those least able to afford it; and

Whereas, The Premier of Alberta Province in Canada, upon hearing that President Joe Biden will revoke the Keystone XL Pipeline, has urged the Prime Minister of Canada to reach out to the Biden administration to reverse course. Unfortunately, instead of going forward with a project that will benefit countless communities and individuals on both sides of the border, President Joe Biden has decided to hinder American-Canadian energy cooperation as one of his first actions as president; and

Whereas, The United States and Canada are each other's largest energy trading partners. Canada has significant oil reserves and is a responsible partner in regulating the oil and gas industry. Projects such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, when combined with other oil and gas projects in both Canada and the United States, promote North American energy independence and job creation. The United States should be looking for ways to increase and improve our relationship with Canada, not diminish it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge President Joe Biden to support the Keystone XL Pipeline, reverse his decision to cancel the permit, and to support American jobs and energy cooperation with our Canadian neighbors; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and

the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-31. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reauthorize the Atchafalaya Heritage Area program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program was designated in 2006 for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the historic, cultural, scenic, recreational, and environmental assets in the fourteen-parish region; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is one of fifty-five national heritage areas designated by Congress since 1984; and

Whereas, National Heritage Areas tell significant stories that celebrate the nation's diverse heritage; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya basin is the largest and most productive river swamp in the United States; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya basin provides habitat for twenty-four federal and state-listed threatened or endangered species or species of concern including the Louisiana black bear, the brown pelican, and the bald eagle; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area supported events and programs that engaged over fifty thousand residents and visitors and leveraged over sixteen thousand volunteer hours since 2006; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area directly leveraged over five million dollars in matching funds over the life of the program; and

Whereas, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is among the most culturally-rich and ecologically-varied regions in the United States, home to the widely recognized Cajun culture as well as a diverse population of European, African, Caribbean, and Native-American descent. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take action to reauthorize the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program to continue the work of promotion and preservation of the cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the area for the next fifteen years; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-32. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming requesting the United States Congress and the federal government to reverse federal orders and actions that inhibit the safe development of oil and gas in Wyoming; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, the state of Wyoming contains abundant and vast natural resources that are and can be used for the production of energy throughout the United States and world; and

Whereas, Wyoming produces energy that benefits consumers and industries throughout the United States; and

Whereas, the energy industry in Wyoming provides millions of dollars in taxes and other revenues annually to the state of Wyoming; and

Whereas, the state of Wyoming and the energy industry have worked together for years to develop Wyoming's energy resources in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, including the development of tech-

nologies to promote the responsible development and use of Wyoming energy; and

Whereas, the federal government owns almost one-half (1/2) of the surface acreage within the state of Wyoming and more than forty-two million (42,000,000) acres of mineral estate in Wyoming; and

Whereas, federal decisions and actions banning, pausing or significantly reducing the production of energy negatively impact the economy of Wyoming and the livelihoods and wellbeing of Wyoming's residents; and

Whereas, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed Executive Order No. 13,990 on January 20, 2021, which requires the federal Secretary of the Interior to unilaterally stop all federal leasing of oil and gas resources in Wyoming; and

Whereas, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14,008 on January 27, 2021, which indefinitely pauses oil and natural gas leasing and calls for a comprehensive review of federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices to evaluate potential climate impacts; and

Whereas, the President and various federal agencies have, since January 20, 2021, taken actions and issued orders to limit actions, permits and leases for oil and gas production, including a Department of the Interior order that revoked authority for issuing fossil-fuel authorizations, leases, permits to drill and the affirmative extension of leases and contracts; and

Whereas, these executive actions will lead companies to pursue energy development in other parts of the world where energy resources are not as environmentally responsible and where responsible energy regulations are lacking to where a net negative impact on climate emissions may likely result; and

Whereas, these executive actions severely and negatively affect the value of property held by the state and citizens of Wyoming in areas affected by these orders due to the fact that federal property is intermingled with private and state lands and oil and gas development often involves lateral drilling techniques which cross several classes of property; and

Whereas, these executive actions will adversely impact and jeopardize the employment of at least twenty thousand (20,000) Wyoming citizens who directly or indirectly work in oil, gas and related industries representing over seven percent (7%) of the total employment in Wyoming; and

Whereas, these executive actions may result in negative impacts to Wyoming's diverse wildlife and habitat, including a decreased ability to mitigate wildlife impacts, increased development on currently undisturbed lands and a decrease in quality habitat reclamation work; and

Whereas, these executive actions are causing immediate, disproportionate and extensive harm to the state of Wyoming and will inflict lasting damage on Wyoming residents, industries and the critical services upon which Wyoming residents depend. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. That the President of the United States rescind, reverse or repeal the executive orders that were issued in January 2021 that suspend or pause leasing, permitting, extensions and authorizations of oil and gas development in Wyoming and that will have an adverse impact on climate change and Wyoming's wildlife and habitat resources while inflicting irreparable and disproportionate harm on the state of Wyoming.

Section 2. That the President of the United States direct all federal agencies to rescind, reverse or repeal any secretarial orders or actions that negatively impact responsible

energy and energy technology development in Wyoming, including Department of the Interior Secretarial Order No. 3395.

Section 3. That the Wyoming Legislature strongly opposes actions by or that direct federal agencies, including the federal Environmental Protection Agency, to unilaterally increase the burden on existing oil and gas companies in Wyoming and to increase the burden on those companies' facilities in Wyoming in an attempt to achieve climate-related goals that are unrealistic and that disproportionately impact the people of Wyoming.

Section 4. That the Wyoming Legislature strongly supports the efforts of the Wyoming congressional delegation to prevent the President and the federal executive branch from unilaterally issuing suspensions and moratoriums on energy development in Wyoming, including the Protecting Our Wealth of Energy Resources (POWER) Act of 2021 and the Safeguarding Oil and Gas Leasing and Permitting Act.

Section 5. That the Wyoming Legislature strongly encourages further congressional action to protect responsible leasing and permitting of oil and gas in Wyoming and to protect Wyoming's residents, energy industry and other industries that are negatively impacted by these executive actions.

Section 6. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Acting Secretary of the Department of the Interior, to the Acting Administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-33. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to fund a study on floodwater harvesting; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2004

Whereas, the seven Colorado Basin states, which consist of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, are in the twentieth year of severe drought and are therefore experiencing a severe water shortage; and

Whereas, water levels are critical. Lake Powell and Lake Mead store the water supply for both urban and rural usage, and, if drought conditions continue, these reservoirs are likely to reach critically low elevations by 2026; and

Whereas, on January 21, 2020, the Lake Mead water level was at 43%, or approximately 1,093 feet; and

Whereas, the Hoover Dam impounds Lake Mead and provides power to millions of people in Southern California, Nevada and Arizona. If the level of Lake Mead declines below 1,050 feet, hydropower generation will be significantly reduced; and

Whereas, at 895 feet, Lake Mead can no longer provide water; and

Whereas, a new water source could help augment Colorado River supplies; and

Whereas, Denver, Colorado is successfully harvesting floodwater from the Missouri River to help alleviate its water shortage; and

Whereas, in wet years, the Mississippi River reaches flood level with a resulting loss of vast quantities of water into the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, historic flooding in 2011 and 2019 along the Mississippi River caused 11 deaths and damaged infrastructure, homes, businesses and agriculture and other industries. Combined estimates of damages and losses of the flooding exceeded \$9.5 billion, according

to the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

Whereas, liquid can be successfully moved thousands of miles through pipelines; and

Whereas, Arizona has long been at the forefront among western states in supporting the development and implementation of pioneering, well-reasoned water management policies.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress fund a technological and feasibility study of developing a diversion dam and pipeline to harvest floodwater from the Mississippi River to replenish the Colorado River and prevent flood damage along the Mississippi River.

2. That, if shown to be feasible, the United States Congress implement the diversion dam and pipeline as a partial solution to the water supply shortage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and the flood damage that occurs along the Mississippi River.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors of the Mississippi River states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin, and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-34. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to appropriate monies to eradicate salt cedars from Arizona waterways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2001

Whereas, the salt cedar tree, also known as the tamarisk, was brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant to stabilize soil and control erosion; and

Whereas, salt cedars are now listed as an invasive species by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

Whereas, salt cedars spread prolifically by both seed and sprouting, congesting thousands of acres of river land in Arizona; and

Whereas, the density of salt cedars creates dangerous conditions by congesting flood-prone areas, impeding water flow and exacerbating the impact of flooding; and

Whereas, by increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires, salt cedars threaten existing and future infrastructure in surrounding communities; and

Whereas, this invasive plant out-competes native cottonwood, mesquite and willow and displaces riparian and other wildlife habitats by altering the ecology and hydrology of native systems; and

Whereas, each salt cedar tree consumes 200 to 300 gallons of water a day, which lowers the water table and creates large deposits of salt in the soil; and

Whereas, salt cedars negatively impact Arizona's economy by jeopardizing agriculture due to high water usage, tending to obstruct irrigation canals and limiting recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, eliminating salt cedars will sustain precious water supplies, reduce the risk of environmental disasters, and minimize structural and ecological damage and loss of life.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress appropriate monies to the State of Arizona to eradicate salt cedars from Arizona waterways.

2. That the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture develop innovative solutions to control the proliferation of salt cedars.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-35. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to collaborate and contribute their knowledge and expertise with the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group in an effort to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, Louisiana has a long and distinguished history of consistent, reliable wintering waterfowl habitat for generations; and

Whereas, waterfowl biologists estimate seed production in moist-soil wetlands located along migration routes and at wintering sites to calculate duck-energy days; and

Whereas, duck-energy days are the number of dabbling ducks that potentially can be sustained energetically in a wetland for a specified duration; and

Whereas, the Louisiana portion of the Chenier Plain Initiative area (CPIA) has a midwinter population objective of over eight hundred and eighty-eight thousand Gadwall and three hundred seventy-eight thousand Blue-winged teal duck-energy days; and

Whereas, the Louisiana portion of the west gulf coastal plain has a population goal of one million seven-hundred thousand duck-energy days of all species; and

Whereas, the Mississippi River Coastal Wetlands Initiative area (MRCWIA) encompasses important wintering waterfowl habitats including Pass A Loutre, Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, Marsh Island, and Delta National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas, the Louisiana portion of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture has a total duck-energy day objective of one-hundred twenty million nine hundred thousand duck-energy days based on a one hundred ten day wintering period from early November to late February; and

Whereas, Louisiana supports over half of the breeding population of western gulf coast mottled ducks; and

Whereas, over four hundred seventy-five thousand acres of rice were planted by Louisiana farmers in 2020, down from a high of six hundred seventy thousand acres in 1981; and

Whereas, the Gulf Coast Joint Venture has also determined that coastal marshes in the CPIA and MRCWIA are deficient in providing habitat to support their waterfowl population objectives; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) owns and manages more than one million six hundred thousand acres of Louisiana's land and waterways as wildlife management areas, refuges, and conservation areas; and

Whereas, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the United States (FWS) manages twenty three national wildlife refuges within Louisiana, covering more than five hundred fifty thousand acres throughout twenty-nine parishes; and

Whereas, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (NRCS) has a long record of working with private landowners to implement conservation practices and programs for the benefit of Louisiana's farms, wetlands, and wildlife habitats; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group (LWWG) is comprised of a diverse group of landowners, managers, business owners, and professionals who share a common interest and concern over the direction Louisiana's waterfowl stock is heading; and

Whereas, the LWWG's mission is to ensure that waterfowl habitat remains a focal point for policy makers and stakeholders at all levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the National Resources Conservation Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to collaborate and contribute their knowledge and expertise with the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group in an effort to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands; and be it further

Resolved, That the LWWG shall submit an annual written report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and Senate Committee on Natural Resources detailing the results of its collaborative efforts to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands; be it further

Resolved, that the report should consider meaningful updates on habitat trends, policy recommendations, and other relevant topics related to Louisiana waterfowl, and the habitats they depend upon; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, Louisiana State Conservationist, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 Director, and the officers of both houses of the United States Congress and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-36. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey urging the President of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to take appropriate action to issue waivers and implement other reforms to allow for the blending of renewable fuels under the federal "Clean Air Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 238

Whereas, Over the past year, United States refiners have been devastated by spiking, volatile Renewable Identification Number (RIN) prices under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program and a dramatic reduction in the use of fuel that was triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors have resulted in a shortage of RINs, and eight refinery closures, throughout the nation; and

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has authority from Congress to waive the RFS program's renewable fuel requirements "in whole or in part" if the EPA Administrator determines that "implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy" of a State, region, or the United States; and

Whereas, Many independent refiners already struggle with slim margins and the RFS program's RIN requirements, as well as the manner in which the unregulated RIN market operates without oversight and subject to speculation and fraud, all of which

are currently inflicting serious economic harm on those businesses; and

Whereas, Current RFS compliance expenses exceed refineries' combined annual costs for labor, utilities, and maintenance, making the costs of such compliance refineries' largest expense, other than the purchase of crude oil; and

Whereas, RIN prices have dramatically increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing from as low as 10 cents at the beginning of 2020 to nearly \$2.00 in June 2021, and leading to a consequent increase, of approximately 30 cents per gallon, in the cost of making gasoline;

Whereas, Harmful financial effects associated with the complex RFS program are especially severe under current market conditions, where demand for refined products is significantly depressed by the COVID-19 pandemic and is not expected to fully recover in the near future; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented year-over-year decline in demand for petroleum and other liquid fuels, leading to temporary, partial, and permanent refinery closures, including the mothballing of the fuels section of the Paulsboro Refinery in New Jersey, as well as other capacity reductions throughout the United States; and

Whereas, Production data published by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has repeatedly shown, for several years, that there is no relationship between RIN prices and the amount of ethanol that's actually blended into the nation's gasoline supply; and

Whereas, The EIA recently noted that, in 2020, 800 million fewer RINs were actually generated than what was required to meet the 2020 RFS standard, thereby resulting in a shortage of available RINs, especially when combined with hoarding by unregulated, non-industry speculators; and

Whereas, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, State and regional refineries supported over 16,500 New Jersey jobs, compensating those employees with more than a billion dollars in total, while adding \$4.2 billion to the State's gross domestic product and generating over \$12.3 billion in total economic output, including the payment of more than \$382 million in State and local taxes. Unfortunately, some of the jobs supported by these refineries were lost due to a partial shutdown attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Refining and petrochemical industries contribute approximately \$600 billion annually to the nation's economy and employ over three million industrial workers in 33 states, but increasing dependence on imported fuels threatens these industries and potentially affects their fuel supplies; and

Whereas, The recent hacking incident affecting the Colonial Pipeline has exposed the vulnerability of the nation's energy supply, highlighting the need to keep our refineries open to fuel the economy; and

Whereas, On June 1, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy wrote to the EPA to urge the agency to extend flexibilities to merchant refiners through the renewable volume obligation under the RFS program; now, therefore, and be it

Resolved, By the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to exercise its waiver authority, pursuant to section 211(o)(7)(A)(i) of the "Clean Air Act," 42 U.S.C. s.7545(o)(7)(A)(i), to reduce nationwide Renewable Fuel Standard volume mandates in order to provide relief to refiners in New Jersey, on the East Coast, and elsewhere.

2. The Legislature also respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish reasonable 2021 and 2022 Renewable Fuel Standard volume mandates, which are in line with actual gasoline and diesel demand, and to make the reforming and restructuring of the Renewable Fuel Standard program a national priority, so as to maintain low and stable Renewable Identification Number prices while allowing for the continued blending of renewable fuels consistent with the original intent of the program.

3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

*Shalanda H. Baker, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

*Samuel T. Walsh, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

*Andrew Eilperin Light, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs).

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Gustavo A. Gelpi, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Angel Kelley, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Christine P. O'Hearn, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Helaine Ann Greenfeld, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2428. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify False Claims Act procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2429. A bill to amend chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, relating to civil remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2430. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures and storm water management measures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2431. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2433. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain a cadastre of Federal real property; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2434. A bill to provide tax incentives that support local newspapers and other local media, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2435. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on heavy trucks and trailers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2436. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fire management areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2437. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction projects on certain National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2438. A bill to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2439. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the responsibility of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to maintain capabilities to identify threats to industrial control systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2440. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convene a blue ribbon panel

to review the forest inventory and analysis program of the Forest Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2441. A bill to establish in the States of North Carolina and South Carolina the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2442. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2443. A bill to expand the definition of H-2A nonimmigrant for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act to include aliens engaged in seafood processing, horticultural commodities, or the care of horses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2444. A bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 2445. A bill to apply user fees with respect to tobacco products deemed subject to the requirements of chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2446. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for greater spousal protection under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2447. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide additional funding for E-rate support for emergency educational connections and devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2448. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that, under certain circumstances, an interactive computer service provider that allows for the proliferation of health misinformation through that service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of that misinformation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr.

CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2449. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to enhance penalties for theft of a firearm from a Federal firearms licensee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 2450. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a rural health center innovation awards program and a rural health department enhancement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2451. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2452. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2453. A bill to promote the launch of aviation's next era; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 2454. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the pilot program for alternative water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2455. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion of Pell Grants from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2456. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2457. A bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2458. A bill to clarify that individuals engaged in aircraft flight instruction or testing, including phased testing of experimental aircraft, are not operating an aircraft carrying persons or property for compensation or hire; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2459. A bill to provide for improvements to aircraft hangars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2460. A bill to establish a panel of constitutional experts to recommend to Congress an appropriate process for providing for the case of the death of a candidate in a contingent presidential or vice-presidential election; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2461. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2462. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to include the oversight of markets that set or report reference prices for aluminum premiums, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2463. A bill to require agencies submit zero-based budgets; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2464. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, to establish a RECOMPETE grant program to provide flexible, 10-year block grants for purposes of creating quality jobs, providing resources to help local residents access opportunities and attain and retain employment, increasing local per capita income and employment rates, and supporting long-term, sustained economic growth and opportunity in persistently distressed areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2465. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the American Opportunity Tax Credit fully refundable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 314. A resolution commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2020 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 315. A resolution commending the service of Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutters and the officers and crew who served on them; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 316. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in

the case of AO Alfa-Bank v. John Doe, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 317. A resolution congratulating the Milwaukee Bucks, and the fans of the Milwaukee Bucks around the world, on winning the 2021 National Basketball Association championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to establish a National Climate Bank.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 659

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers for covering military spouses under retirement plans.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1312, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer and for other purposes.

S. 1486

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1486, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1779

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes.

S. 1901

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1901, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1915, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow a veteran to receive a full year supply of contraceptive pills, transdermal patches, vaginal rings, and other hormonal contraceptive products.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from establishing per diem reimbursements rates for travel within the continental United States (commonly known as "CONUS") for certain fiscal years below a certain level, and for other purposes.

S. 2202

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms.

ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2202, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 2264

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2264, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide capacity-building assistance to institutions of higher education to examine and address inequities in college student access and success, and for other purposes.

S. 2324

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2324, a bill to amend the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2382

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2382, a bill to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2430. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures and storm water management measures; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act," which I introduced today. Representative JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA) has introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Access to water has always been a major issue in California and throughout the Western United States. That issue has only become more pressing as climate change increases the risk of drought in the West. Right now, 87 per-

cent of California is facing "Extreme Drought" conditions and 33 percent of the state is experiencing "Exceptional Drought" conditions, the most severe category.

A growing number of States, including California, have begun offering rebates to homeowners to improve the water efficiency of their homes. Unfortunately, many homeowners are unaware that they are required to pay federal income taxes on these rebates and are surprised to be stuck with that bill. Still other homeowners aware of the tax implications are disincentivized from making these efficiencies to their homes.

The "Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act" would exempt such State and local rebates for water conservation improvements, as well as improvements to better handle storm water runoff, from taxable income. This would eliminate the unexpected bill homeowners face, increasing the incentive to make these improvements, which benefit all of us.

I note that such State rebates for energy conservation improvements are already excluded from taxable income. Thus, my bill would simply put water conservation rebates on par with energy conservation rebates for tax treatment.

It is critical that Congress explore many ways to address climate change and mitigate the impacts that we are already seeing. Encouraging homeowners to make their properties more water-efficient is one way to do that.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2432. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Disaster Mitigation and Tax Parity Act," which Senator BURR and I introduced today. Representative MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) has introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Encouraging homeowners to take steps to reduce the risk of natural catastrophe damage to their homes has long been a goal of policy makers. In California, it has been a special challenge to incentivize individuals to purchase earthquake insurance and to harden their homes against potential earthquake damage.

The threat of natural disasters and extreme weather events has become a much greater problem in recent years due to climate change, which is driving an increasing frequency and severity of wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, and other catastrophic events. This, in turn, is reducing the availability and

increasing the costs of insurance for individuals and businesses.

A growing number of states, including California, have begun offering rebates to homeowners to improve their homes to mitigate against damage from such events. Unfortunately, many homeowners are unaware that they are required to pay Federal income taxes on these rebates and are surprised to be stuck with that bill. Other homeowners who are aware of the tax implications are disincentivized from making these improvements to their homes.

The "Disaster Mitigation and Tax Parity Act" would exempt such State rebates for disaster mitigation improvements from taxable income. This would eliminate the unexpected bill homeowners face, increasing the incentive to make these improvements, which benefit all of us.

I also note that such State rebates for energy conservation improvements are already excluded from taxable income. Thus, our bill would simply put disaster mitigation rebates on par with energy conservation measures.

I am pleased that Congress is exploring many ways to address climate change-related matters. Encouraging homeowners to make their properties more resistant to natural catastrophe damage is one way to help.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2437. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction projects on certain National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2437

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expediting Forest Restoration and Recovery Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. APPLICATION BY FOREST SERVICE OF AUTHORITIES TO EXPEDITE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES IN CARRYING OUT HAZARDOUS FUEL AND INSECT AND DISEASE RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS.

Section 104 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6514) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) APPLICATION BY FOREST SERVICE OF AUTHORITIES TO EXPEDITE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES IN CARRYING OUT HAZARDOUS FUEL AND INSECT AND DISEASE RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) INSECT AND DISEASE TREATMENT AREA.—The term 'insect and disease treatment area' means an area that—

"(i) is designated by the Secretary as an insect and disease treatment area under this title; or

“(ii) is designated as at risk or a hazard on the most recent National Insect and Disease Risk Map published by the Forest Service.

“(B) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(14)(A).

“(2) USE OF AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out a hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction project in an insect and disease treatment area authorized under this Act, the Secretary shall—

“(A) apply the categorical exclusion established by section 603 in the case of a hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction project carried out in an area—

“(i) designated as suitable for timber production within the applicable forest plan; or

“(ii) where timber harvest activities are not prohibited;

“(B) conduct applicable environmental assessments and environmental impact statements in accordance with this section in the case of a hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction project—

“(i) carried out in an area—

“(I) outside of an area described in subparagraph (A); or

“(II) where other significant resource concerns exist, as determined exclusively by the Secretary; or

“(ii) that is carried out in an area equivalent to not less than a hydrologic unit code 5 watershed, as defined by the United States Geological Survey; and

“(C) notwithstanding subsection (d), in the case of any other hazardous fuel or insect and disease reduction project, in the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement prepared under subsection (b), study, develop, and describe—

“(i) the proposed agency action; and

“(ii) the alternative of no action.

“(3) PRIORITY FOR REDUCING RISKS OF INSECT INFESTATION AND WILDFIRE.—Except where established as a mandatory standard that constrains project and activity decisionmaking in a resource management plan (as defined in section 101(13)(A)) in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, in the case of an insect and disease treatment area, the Secretary shall prioritize reducing the risks of insect and disease infestation and wildfire over other planning objectives.

“(4) INCLUSION OF FIRE REGIME GROUPS IV AND V.—Notwithstanding section 603(c)(2)(B), the Secretary shall apply the categorical exclusion described in paragraph (2)(A) to areas in Fire Regime Groups IV and V.

“(5) EXCLUDED AREAS.—This subsection shall not apply to—

“(A) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

“(B) an inventoried roadless area, except in the case of an activity that is permitted under—

“(i) the final rule of the Secretary entitled ‘Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation’ (66 Fed. Reg. 3244 (January 12, 2001)); or

“(ii) a State-specific roadless area conservation rule.

“(6) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall annually make publicly available data describing the acreage treated under hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction projects in insect and disease treatment areas during the previous year.”.

SEC. 3. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

Section 8206(b)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds received from the sale of timber by a Governor of a State under a good neighbor agreement shall be retained and used by the Governor—

“(i) to carry out authorized restoration services under that good neighbor agreement; and

“(ii) if funds remain after carrying out authorized restoration services under clause (i), to carry out authorized restoration services within the State under other good neighbor agreements.”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2442. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “teaching as” and inserting the following: “teaching—

“(I) as”;

(2) by striking “, foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges), as determined by the Secretary,” and inserting “and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) as a part-time faculty member or instructor who—

“(aa) teaches not less than 1 course at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)); and

“(bb) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer.”.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2452. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I have introduced the Encouraging Americans to Save Act (EASA). This legislation makes common sense reforms to the saver’s tax credit by making the credit refundable and restructuring it as a government matching contribution that is directly deposited into a taxpayer’s retirement savings account. This bill would offer matching contributions for the first time to millions of middle and low income individuals not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, including those who save through an IRA under a state or local government savings program—such as workers in my home State of Oregon under the OregonSaves pro-

gram. The government match is also available to middle and lower income savers who participate in an employer-sponsored plan. The government match provided by the bill would both encourage saving and help middle and low income earners build assets by providing an immediate, meaningful return on their personal contributions. The legislation would also establish a coronavirus bonus recovery credit that would provide an additional government match of up to \$5,000 to workers on their retirement saving for a five year period. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 2454. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the pilot program for alternative water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the “Water Reuse and Resiliency Act.” This legislation would authorize \$1 billion for innovative water infrastructure projects that respond to our Country’s growing water needs and the historic drought facing the Western United States.

In the face of unprecedented heat and drought conditions across the Western United States, and growing water resource challenges across the entire Nation, it is critically important that we invest now to modernize and adapt our water systems for the 21st century.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Alternative Water Source Projects pilot program provides competitive grants to engineer, design, construct, and test alternative water source systems, including water recycling systems and projects that conserve, manage, reclaim, or reuse water resources.

The Water Reuse and Resiliency Act would reauthorize the EPA’s Alternative Water Source Projects pilot program for five years, increase the authorization to \$1 billion, and make stormwater reuse and groundwater recharge projects eligible for grant funding.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as of July 13, an estimated 89% of the Western U.S. is experiencing drought. Unfortunately, historic droughts are becoming the new normal. The impacts of drought on water availability are compounded by triple-digit temperatures, record low snowpack levels, and a growing population.

By expanding the use of alternative, non-traditional water sources, such as capturing stormwater runoff and recycling wastewater for groundwater recharge, the Water Reuse and Resiliency Act supports innovations in water treatment that can deliver a new, safe, and reliable source of water for potable use or irrigation.

I thank my co-lead, Senator FEINSTEIN, for her tireless leadership fighting for clean water for Californians and

all Americans. I also thank the cosponsors of this bill for championing this vital effort with us in the Senate.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the “Water Reuse and Resiliency Act” as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—COMMEMORATING THE PAST SUCCESS OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS AND SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 314

Whereas, for 125 years, the Olympic Movement has worked to build a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through amateur athletics, bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the 2020 Olympic Games will take place in Tokyo, Japan, from July 23, 2021, to August 8, 2021, and the 2020 Paralympic Games will take place in Tokyo, Japan, from August 24, 2021, to September 5, 2021;

Whereas, at the 2020 Olympic Games, 206 countries will compete in more than 330 events in nearly 40 disciplines, and at the 2020 Paralympic Games, more than 165 countries will compete in events in 22 disciplines;

Whereas the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams have won 1,974 gold medals, 1,685 silver medals, and 1,536 bronze medals, totaling 5,195 medals, during the past Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas the United States plans to send 613 athletes to participate in the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including a record 329 women;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect for and admiration of the members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and the athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication to excellence of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams;

Whereas the many accomplishments of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many others, including individuals on the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the National Governing Bodies of Sport and the many administrators, coaches, and family members who provided critical support to the athletes;

Whereas the United States Government is grateful to Japan for hosting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas Japan successfully hosted the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, the first ever Olympic Games to be held in Asia, as a symbol of Japanese postwar reconstruction and a catalyst for economic growth and technological development;

Whereas Japan successfully hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo and the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano;

Whereas the people of the United States take great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and goodwill toward competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams; and

Whereas the Olympic Movement celebrates competition, fair play, and the pursuit of glory, elevating the eternal qualities of the human spirit to the world stage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports proceeding with the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in a safe and secure environment;

(2) commends the Government of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in their efforts to commit tremendous resources to provide a safe and secure environment for the athletes competing in the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

(3) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and their families who support them;

(4) supports the athletes of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in their endeavors at the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan; and

(5) supports the goals and ideals of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF HAMILTON-CLASS COAST GUARD CUTTERS AND THE OFFICERS AND CREW WHO SERVED ON THEM

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 315

Whereas the first Hamilton-class cutter was the United States Coast Guard Cutter (referred to in this preamble as “USCGC”) Hamilton, which was placed in full commission on March 18, 1967;

Whereas USCGC Mellon, USCGC Chase, USCGC Dallas, USCGC Boutwell, USCGC Sherman, USCGC Gallatin, USCGC Morgenthau, USCGC Rush, USCGC Munro, USCGC Midgett, and USCGC Jarvis completed the class of high endurance cutters and were 1 of the most highly versatile and capable vessels at the time of their construction at Avondale Shipyards in Louisiana;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters courageously supported multiple peacetime and wartime operations during their time in active service, including Operation Market Time, Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Vigilant Sentinel, Operation Deny Flight, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters conducted illegal narcotics interdictions totaling 3,300,000 pounds and \$23,600,000,000 in market value, including the interdiction conducted by USCGC Hamilton and USCGC Sherman of the M/V Gatun, which discovered 20 metric tons of illegal narcotics with an estimated street value of \$600,000,000 for the largest narcotics interdiction in United States history at the time;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters have saved thousands of lives during search and rescue operations at sea, including the rescue conducted by USCGC Boutwell and USCGC Mellon of all 520 passengers and crew of the M/S Prinsendam, 1 of the largest at-sea rescues in Coast Guard history;

Whereas Hamilton-class cutters received excellent shoreside support at Coast Guard homeports in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, and Washington, allowing the cutters to perform admirably past their service life;

Whereas the Mississippi-built National Security Cutter replaced the Hamilton-class cutter to continue the storied success of high endurance Coast Guard cutters at sea;

Whereas USCGC Douglas Munro, formerly known as USCGC Munro, decommissioned on April 24, 2021, ending over 54 years of service of Hamilton-class cutters to the United States;

Whereas Coast Guard cutters remain a vital component of United States capability across the globe in serving to protect life at sea, deterring illicit activity, and ensuring the continuance of the international rules-based order at all levels of the competition continuum;

Whereas the increasing global complexity and expanding demand for Coast Guard services necessitates the best people, modern technology, resilient infrastructure, and highly capable assets; and

Whereas Congress must recognize the importance of maximizing afloat readiness for the Coast Guard by supporting personnel, investing in mission-enabling technologies, and modernizing assets: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the success of the Hamilton-class cutters in service to the United States;

(2) commends the officers and crew of Hamilton-class cutters for their technical excellence, accomplishments, professionalism, and sacrifices;

(3) supports the role of Coast Guard cutters and their importance to national security, law enforcement at sea, and homeland defense; and

(4) applauds the Coast Guard for continuing to advance the capabilities of the fleet with the National Security Cutter to adapt to the growing need for a global Coast Guard presence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF AO ALFA-BANK V. JOHN DOE, ET AL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 316

Whereas, in the case of *AO Alfa-Bank v. John Doe, et al.*, Case No. 50-2020-CA-006304, pending in the 15th Judicial Circuit Court, Palm Beach County, Florida, the plaintiff has issued two subpoenas for deposition testimony and document production to Thomas Kirk McConnell, a staff member of the Committee on Armed Services;

Whereas the plaintiff has presented those Florida court subpoenas to the District of Columbia Superior Court, which has issued the subpoenas under local law, Case No. 2021-02459;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent committees and current and former employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony or documents relating to their official responsibilities; and

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate

may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Committee on Armed Services and Thomas Kirk McConnell in this matter to seek to quash the subpoenas.

SEC. 2. Elizabeth King, Majority Staff Director of the Committee on Armed Services, is authorized to provide a limited declaration sufficient to demonstrate the applicability of the Speech or Debate Clause privilege in this matter, without waiving the Committee's privilege.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Republican leader, Mr. McCONNELL, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing representation by the Senate Legal Counsel and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns third-party subpoenas to a Senate employee from Alfa Bank, the plaintiff in a lawsuit pending in Florida State court. The plaintiff, a large Russian bank, alleges in its lawsuit that unnamed defendants used cyber tools to create internet log data appearing to show communications between computer servers of the plaintiff and the Trump Organization, causing negative publicity. Alfa Bank is conducting third-party discovery to identify the unnamed persons it alleges conspired against it. As part of that attempted discovery, it has issued two subpoenas to a staff member of the Committee on Armed Services seeking testimony and Committee documents regarding his work for the Committee in examining the publicly-reported allegations about possible clandestine internet communications between plaintiff and the Trump Organization.

Because the subpoenas seek testimony and documents relating to information gathering activities the staff person undertook as part of his duties for the Committee, they request information that is absolutely privileged under the Speech or Debate Clause. In addition, sovereign immunity precludes enforcement of State court subpoenas against officials and employees of the Federal government. This resolution would authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Committee on Armed Services and its staff member and move to quash the subpoenas, at the request of the Committee.

In addition, to demonstrate to the court the applicability of the Speech or Debate Clause privilege in this matter, the resolution authorizes the Majority Staff Director of the Committee to provide a limited declaration in support of the motion to quash. By submitting this limited declaration solely to establish its privilege, the Committee is not waiving, and, indeed, continues to assert, its absolute Speech or Debate Clause privilege against being compelled to produce any information in this matter.

SENATE RESOLUTION 317—CONGRATULATING THE MILWAUKEE BUCKS, AND THE FANS OF THE MILWAUKEE BUCKS AROUND THE WORLD, ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 317

Whereas, on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, the Milwaukee Bucks (referred to in this preamble as the "Bucks") won the 2021 National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NBA") championship by defeating the Phoenix Suns in Game 6 of the NBA Finals by a score of 105 to 98, winning the series 4 games to 2;

Whereas the Bucks won—

- (1) the second NBA championship in the history of the franchise;
- (2) their first round of the NBA playoffs by defeating the Miami Heat 4 games to 0;
- (3) their Eastern Conference semi-finals match-up against the Brooklyn Nets 4 games to 3; and
- (4) the Eastern Conference Finals by defeating the Atlanta Hawks 4 games to 2;

Whereas every member of the 2020–2021 Bucks played a key role in the quest for a championship, including—

- (1) Giannis Antetokounmpo;
- (2) Thanasis Antetokounmpo;
- (3) Elijah Bryant;
- (4) Pat Connaughton;
- (5) Mamadi Diakite;
- (6) Donte DiVincenzo;
- (7) Bryn Forbes;
- (8) Jrue Holiday;
- (9) Justin Jackson;
- (10) Brook Lopez;
- (11) Sam Merrill;
- (12) Khris Middleton;
- (13) Jordan Nwora;
- (14) Bobby Portis;
- (15) Jeff Teague;
- (16) Axel Toupane; and
- (17) P.J. Tucker;

Whereas the entire Bucks organization deserves congratulations for this historic achievement, including—

- (1) the owners of the Bucks, Marc Lasry, Wes Edens, Jamie Dinan, and Michael Fascitelli;
- (2) the General Manager of the Bucks, Jon Horst; and
- (3) the head coach of the Bucks, Mike Budenholzer;

Whereas Giannis Antetokounmpo, for the first time, was named the Most Valuable Player of the NBA Finals, in which he—

- (1) averaged 35.2 points, 13.2 rebounds, 5 assists, and 1.8 blocks per game; and
- (2) shot 61.8 percent from the field per game;

Whereas, in the championship-clinching Game 6 of the NBA Finals, Giannis Antetokounmpo—

- (1) scored 50 points, shooting 64 percent from the field and making 17 of 19 free throws;
- (2) had 14 rebounds; and
- (3) blocked 5 shots;

Whereas Bucks forward Khris Middleton, the first NBA player to begin his career in the Development League and subsequently become an NBA All-Star, which Middleton became in the 2018–2019 season, had an impactful performance throughout the NBA Finals, including a crucial mid-range shot with 1 minute remaining in Game 6;

Whereas the Bucks won their first NBA championship in 50 years, when NBA legends

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson brought a title to Milwaukee in 1971;

Whereas the Bucks, who won the 2021 NBA championship in 6 games, fulfilled the prophecy of Bucks legend Brandon Jennings, who, in 2013, began the "Bucks in 6" rallying cry; and

Whereas the fans in the Deer District showed up, game after game, to cheer on the Bucks in large numbers outside Fiserv Forum: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Milwaukee Bucks (referred to in this resolution as the "Bucks"), and the loyal fans of the Bucks, on winning the 2021 National Basketball Association championship;

(2) recognizes the historic achievement of the entire Bucks organization, including the players, coaches, and staff, for a victorious season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Bucks, Mike Budenholzer;

(B) the owners of the Bucks, Marc Lasry, Wes Edens, Jamie Dinan, and Michael Fascitelli; and

(C) the General Manager of the Bucks, Jon Horst.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following in-limits in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Ty Sharp, Virginia Smith, Graeme Marshall, and Jack Hartman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF AO ALFA-BANK V. JOHN DOE, ET AL.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 316, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 316) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of AO Alfa-Bank v. John Doe, et al.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REED. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 316) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF TREVOR REED

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 91, S. Res. 67.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 67) calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 67) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 22, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 93, S. Res. 165.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 165) calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(The part of the preamble intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the preamble intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. RES. 165

[Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

[Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

[Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

[Whereas the Federal Security Service has never provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

[Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held there for more than 19 months after his arrest in pre-trial detention;

[Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

[Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

[Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

[Whereas the then United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should

bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

[Whereas then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

[Whereas the Kremlin has refused Paul Whelan full access to his lawyer and the so-called evidence against him, and any evidence he has seen is in Russian, a language Paul does not read or speak;

[Whereas Lefortovo pre-trial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

[Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to it as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

[Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day because he was moved secretly, Paul Whelan was transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

[Whereas Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call that the Russian authorities correct this injustice and release Mr. Whelan; and

[Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release Americans detained in Russia, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States: Now, therefore, be it]

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has never provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held there for more than 19 months after his arrest in pre-trial detention;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the then United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. . . . If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now";

Whereas then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey

Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

Whereas the Kremlin has refused Paul Whelan full access to his lawyer and the so-called evidence against him, and his trial and sentencing were conducted almost entirely in Russian, a language Mr. Whelan does not read or speak;

Whereas Lefortovo pre-trial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to it as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day because he was moved secretly, Paul Whelan was transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

Whereas Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call that the Russian authorities correct this injustice and release Mr. Whelan; and

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release Americans detained in Russia, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from imprisonment;

(2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation comply with its international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in Russia;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitutionally afforded due process rights and universally recognized human rights; and

(4) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty to justice and personal hardship, and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to a just end.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 165) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 165

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has never provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held there for more than 19 months after his arrest in pre-trial detention;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the then United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing . . . If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now";

Whereas then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

Whereas the Kremlin has refused Paul Whelan full access to his lawyer and the so-called evidence against him, and his trial and sentencing were conducted almost entirely in Russian, a language Mr. Whelan does not read or speak;

Whereas Lefortovo pre-trial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to it as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day because he was moved secretly, Paul Whelan was transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

Whereas Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call that the Russian authorities correct this injustice and release Mr. Whelan; and

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release Americans detained in Russia, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from imprisonment,

(2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation comply with its international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in Russia;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitutionally afforded due process rights and universally recognized human rights; and

(4) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty to justice and personal hardship, and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to a just end.

AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT DETAILS FROM OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 105, S. 2382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2382) to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on non-reimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2382) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2382

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT DETAILS ON NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS.

Section 1752(e) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively, and indenting such subparagraphs two ems to the right;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking "The Director may" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may";

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) as redesignated by paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (I), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph (C):

"(C) accept officers or employees of the United States or member of the Armed Forces on a detail from an element of the intelligence community or from another element of the Federal Government on a nonreimbursable basis, as jointly agreed to by the heads of the receiving and detailing elements, for a period not to exceed three years"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DETAILS.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not be construed to impose any limitation on any other authority for reimbursable or nonreimbursable details. A nonreimbursable detail made

under such paragraph shall not be considered an augmentation of the appropriations of the receiving element of the Office of the National Cyber Director.”.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, July 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kim nomination; further, that the cloture motion on the Kim nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 26, 2021, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ANDREW PHILIP HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE WILLIAM ROPER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

GRAHAM SCOTT STEELE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE BIMAL PATEL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS R. NIDES, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

TOM UDALL, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TAMARA COFMAN WITTES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MICHAEL T. HARVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JONATHAN KANTER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE MAKAN DELRAHIM, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 22, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JILL HRUBY, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HEIDI SHYU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING.

ELY STEFANSKY RATNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

SHAWN GRAHAM SKELLY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

MEREDITH BERGER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

GINA MARIA ORTIZ JONES, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

CAROLINE DIANE KRASS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 22, 2021 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ANDREW PHILIP HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE BRUCE D. JETTE, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 20, 2021.